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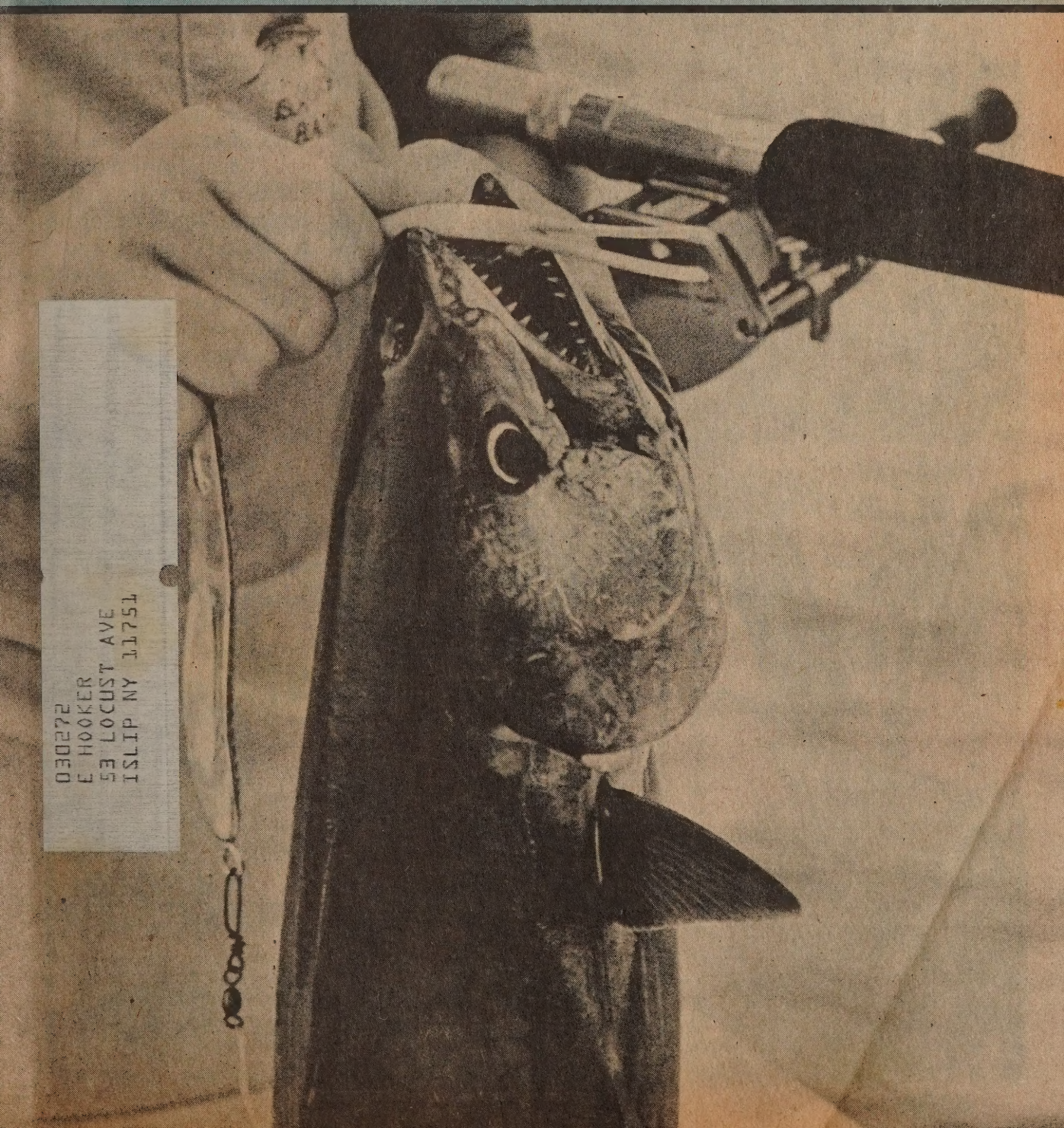
September 11th, 1980 ★ Volume 15, Number 37



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Volume 15, Number 37 — September 11th, 1980

Features:

National Scene:
NMFS DISCRIMINATION ..... Al Ristori 7

Fish Talk:
THANK GOODNESS FOR FALL! ..... William A. Muller 8

NEW JIGS & LURES ..... Fred Guardineer 9

Surf Fishing:
STATEN ISLAND WEAKFISH ..... Richard Giessuebel 10

Sinker Bouncing:
SELECTING THE RIGHT HOOK ..... Matt Ahern 12

PANFISHING IN BROOKLYN ..... Sal Terranova 14

BONITO & ALBACORE ..... Richard Giessuebel 16

HOW ABOUT PORGIES ..... Capt. John DeMaio 20

Pass It On 4
Chum Lines 4
Boating 6
Free Lure Offer 19
Fishing Reports 23
Tide Tables 37
Solunar Tables 37
Fisherman's Classified 46

About the Cover—

This bonito struck a Bridgeport Wobble Eel. Both bonito and their larger cousin, the albacore, will be providing Long Island anglers with some zesty sport throughout the month of September. Photo by Pete Barrett.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **OUTBOARD DOCTOR**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
Fred Golofaro, EDITOR
Rich Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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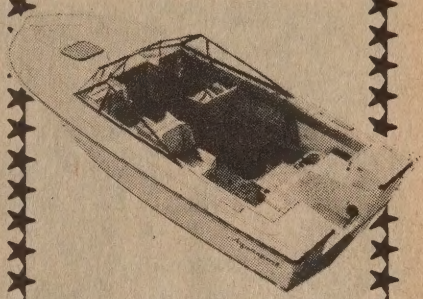

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CONGRESSMAN AMBRO ON OUR WATER QUALITY

With all of the furor over the recently released report by the New York Public Interest Research Group indicating that there has been inadequate monitoring and regulating of toxic chemicals discharged into Long Island's drinking water—an observation, incidentally, with which I am in complete agreement—I thought you should be made aware of legislation I have introduced which addresses this and broader matters.

The product of more than eight months of work with the staff of my Subcommittee on Natural Resources and the Environment, my bill, the National Groundwater Environmental Research Act of 1980, will establish for the first time, a comprehensive, national groundwater research program on the hazards of groundwater contamination and solutions to this almost universally ignored phenomenon.

This undertaking is of particular importance to Long Island which draws 100% of its drinking water from underground aquifers. As Chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee, I plan to begin hearings on the bill, which has been referred by the House leadership to my subcommittee, as soon as possible, perhaps even in a few weeks. If these groundwater sources are destroyed by industrial solvents, pesticides, toxic chemicals and other contaminants, then we will have lost one of the most critical elements in Long Island's survival as an ideal place to live, work and play.

You may rest assured of my vigorous pursuit of this matter in the months ahead.

With kindest wishes. **Jerome A. Ambros, U.S. Congressman.**

ATLANTIC ANGLERS SEEK NEW MEMBERS

Atlantic Anglers, Inc. is looking for new members with or without boats, who like to fish. They are basically a bay fishing club, but periodically fish offshore. Anyone interested, please contact: Rich Gibbons, 516-799-3768.

L.I.S.P.&R.C. RESUMES ISSUING FISHING PERMITS

After a moratorium on night permits and four-wheel drive permits that lasted several weeks, effective September 7, 1980 permits **WILL** be issued.

The moratorium became necessary in August when the Commission experienced a sudden and heavy demand for permits, coupled with some unexpected beach problems. Now that the Commission has 'caught its breath,' the permits can be issued to accommodate surf fishermen who are looking forward to the fall run.

CHUM LINES

A LITTLE RESPECT PLEASE FOR THE GREAT WHITE SHARK

Three cheers and a bravo for Scott Simons; it is long past time that someone said something about the disgusting continuation of harpooning of great white sharks. Now that Pandora's Box has been opened, I would like to carry the subject a little further.

Perhaps if the LIF publishes that this act (I can't call it fishing) is "sick," there would be less attempts at taking this beautiful fish by harpoon. Please explain that there is no sport in running up on a fish that is sunning itself, driving a harpoon into it and then permitting the fish to expire by pulling the boat around by a 10,000 lb. plus (breaking strength) line. Good parallels for this mode of harpooning are the clubbing of baby seals or shooting fish in a barrel. It should be publicized that harpooning of great white sharks is nothing short of sea-rape.

If we permit the destruction of these fish to obtain $400 teeth or to make head mounts, we are not using the gray matter that our creator gave us as super(0) beings. I am curious: in your experience has the rest of the fish (everything except the head and/or jaws) been used as table fare after one of these "big sports" kills it?

Should there be a law?—you bet!! For harpooning any large fish, a dollar or two per pound (never less than $1000) would be good for starters! Fishing for these fish with 130 lb. test tackle brings the odds more in line with sportsmanship (where it is a contest—not slaughter). How about the LIF emphasizing tagging, so that some additional information can be obtained. This would be to the benefit of all, instead of wanton destruction of the great white by harpoon.

Perhaps if you could delineate the great white's function in the overall ecosystem, maybe it will help to dispel the "Jaws Syndrome." I, for one, would like to see harpooning of great white sharks become as macho as a game of croquet.

Pardon my soap box speech, but I guess we all have our sore points (as you can see, mine has been festering for awhile now). It seems that the whole country continues to suffer with

shark fever, for the profit of a few promoters, while risking extinction of a great fish. *G. T. Milton, Sparta, N.J.*

Although we're not quite sure about the intentions of some of your comments, and although we aren't sure that we can agree with all of the points you have made, there are several things that can be agreed upon. First, the great white shark is a magnificent beast and second, it does appear to be a shame to harpoon such animal and then call it sport. You ask for a discussion of the great white's role in the ecology of the oceans and that can be easily provided. First of all, it wasn't the book or the movie "JAWS" that stirred up everyone's killer attitude toward sharks. Rather the book and movies were a success in part because fear of sharks is one of man's most ancient fears. History is filled with men seeking vengeance against sharks and often being defeated by them. In spite of the fact that most sharks are not man-eaters, look at the effort that the Navy put into shark repellents for downed airmen and shipwrecked seamen. Incidentally, those repellents weren't very effective but were good psychological weapons. The great white is an exception. It is a man-eater. That's because it will readily seek out mammals as a regular part of its diet. Most sharks will eat anything, but generally eat fish and squid except when a dead mammal—such as a whale—is encountered. Even the mako, which enjoys a limited reputation as a man-eater, would only do so as a last resort, much preferring mackerel, squid, and bluefish. The great white is found in every ocean of the world for that reason (of course, we exclude the oceans around the poles). They are nature's wolves of the sea. Their function is to prevent over-population of mammals and to cull out the old, sick, weak, and injured. That's why the great whites are found around Montauk in early summer each year. That is the time of the year when the porpoises and small whales are migrating through the area and some of these are calving. The great whites follow these herds of mammals and cull out those individuals that can't make it. This is nature's system of natural selection. We do not take objection to fishing for the great white shark, but we do shy off the harpooning of the species. We wonder what is proven in the arena of the sportsman by harpooning such an animal? There can't be too much sport to that any more than harpooning a whale! We wonder why, if a two thousand pound marlin can be baited and fought successfully, why can't the same be done with a great white shark. If the line breaks, even after many hours of battle—well, so be it. That's fishing! In fact, we often are guilty of ultra-conservatism in our fishing and prefer to use as few technological tools to catch our fish. That's a matter of personal perception, however, and much depends on

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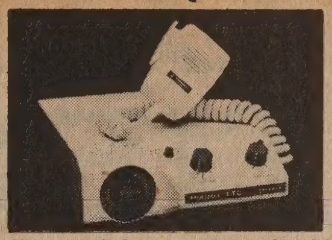

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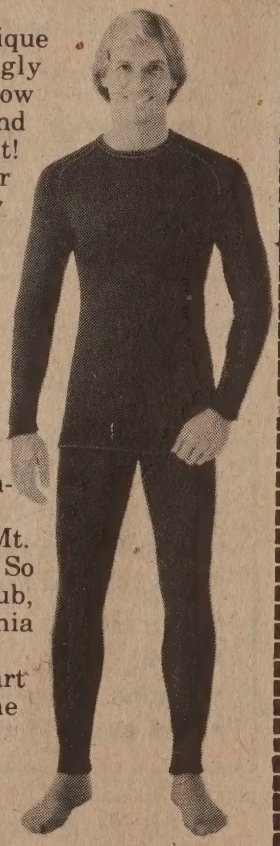

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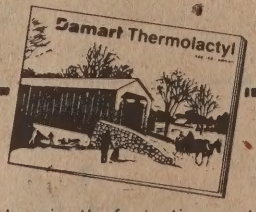

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whether one's attitude is one of the purist or the pragmatists. In short, we support the notion of leaving the "SPORT" in sport fishing for great whites! W.A.M.

BOATING

NASSAU COUNTY FREE BOATING COURSES

The summer of 1980 has seen a considerable increase in new boaters. Many vacationers have traded expensive vacations abroad for the joys of boating on Long Island. For some, "Buy now...learn later" did not work out too well. Lack of basic knowledge led to accidents, groundings, breakdowns and worse. Now is the time to correct past mistakes and avoid future ones.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-8 will sponsor a 12-lesson course in boating skills and seamanship at two separate locations. The course covers boat handling, aids to navigation, compass and charts, piloting, rules of the road, radiotelephone, marlinspike seamanship, legal requirements and a number of other subjects which will enable you to operate a boat safely and efficiently. The course is free to the public, except for a materials charge.

Seaford High School, Seaman's Neck Road, Seaford. Registration on September 15 **thru** 19, 7PM to 9PM. Classes on Tuesdays, 8PM to 10PM, beginning September 23.

Bethpage High School, Stewart Avenue, Bethpage. Registration on September 22 and September 24 ONLY, 7PM to 9PM. Classes start Tuesday, September 30, 8PM to 10PM.

For further information, phone Mr. Paul Henderson, (516) 785-6779, or Mr. Gray Silverstein (516) 735-5611.

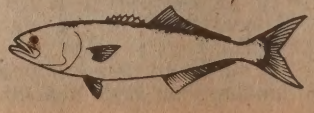
This is an opportunity for novice boaters to gain important knowledge that will make their boating safe and enjoyable.

FREE BOATING COURSE

An instructional course on boating skills, seamanship and sailing will be given on Thursdays at 7PM by Flotilla 5-7 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The course starts on September 18; please come early to register, at the Marine Information Office, Coast Guard Building, Battery Park, Manhattan.

There is a $25 fee for registration, books, question-and-answer sheets and materials.

For additional information, call: Vice Commander Cecil Jones, 543-6704 evenings.



NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

NMFS DISCRIMINATES AGAINST SPORT FISHING

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of Revisions to the Regulations Governing the United States Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fishery contains some interesting information if you can get past the title without falling asleep. Within the course of this 80-page document, there are summations of the many hearings on the regulations which were held from Maine to Texas in April. Unfortunately, New York was overlooked when the hearing schedule was set up; but the meeting at West Long Branch, New Jersey drew forty-six people. The biggest turnouts were at Wakefield and Hyannis, Massachusetts with attendances of 130 and 132, respectively.

There was considerable debate about the NMFS plan to allocate almost all of the purse seine quota to the four seiners that have been operating in the fishery. NMFS believes this "gives fair recognition to the past efforts of historical participants." Unfortunately, NMFS never mentions "fair recognition" of the past efforts of the recreational segment of the fishery! The San Diego-based American Tunaboat Association objected to the entire basis of the NMFS program. They felt that the requirement that the 650-ton school tuna quota be taken with a NMFS observer aboard (to prevent over-running the quota) "violates the Constitutional rights of the Owner, Master and crew." They also objected to the reduction in the school tuna quota from 1,000 to 650 tons. The Tunaboat Association further characterized the proposed regulations as "representing the most extreme, burdensome, harsh, discriminatory and destructive regulatory system ever imposed on U.S. flag tuna purse seine vessel owners and fishermen in the history of the United States. Not only do the proposed regulations favor a small group of four purse seine vessels—which are believed to be owned on a common basis—but they are designed to phase out the purse seine fishery on Atlantic bluefin."

When the American Tunaboat Association is upset about something, it can't be all wrong. The fact of the matter is that it was the West Coast seiners, rather than the few relatively small East Coast vessels, that imposed intolerable burdens on the school tuna fishery in the Sixties and left us in a "catch-up" situation from which we've never recovered. They are so used to getting just about everything they want from NMFS, that they object to regulations even on a small, depleted fishery. It's been clear for some years that the Atlantic bluefin tuna resource has been overfished, and that it is necessary to assure a high survival rate of school tuna in order to bring the population back to a reasonable level. Yet, NMFS has disregarded the advice of their biologists and refused to face up to the tuna seiners with a closing of the purse seine fishery for schoolies.

In the EIS, NMFS outlines the decline of the school tuna population and admits that overfishing is probably to blame. Furthermore, they note that "various authors have shown that the yield from each bluefin tuna newly recruited into the fishery can be increased if they are only lightly exploited until they reach approximately 145 lbs.; i.e., about six years of age." Yet, year after year, NMFS has permitted the purse seine fishery to remove tons of smaller tuna—leaving few to reach the optimum size for harvesting.

The EIS notes that there are approximately fifty people employed on the four purse seine vessels involved in the school tuna fishery. On the other hand, there are between 13,000 and 39,000 recreational tuna fishermen in any given season—and that figure is based on the depressed fishing of recent years. Presumably, there would be many more tuna fishermen if the fishing was of the quality traditionally enjoyed in the mid-Atlantic prior to the advent of massive purse seining. No mention at all is made of the economic impact of the recreational tuna fishery or of those dependent upon it. Americans don't even benefit from much of the seiner's tuna catch, as the majority is shipped to canners in Canada.

There's no need to speculate on how bad school tuna fishing has been in recent years. The numbers of fish caught from Rhode Island to North Carolina have been increasing somewhat, but are still very low by any historical standard. The catch increased from 6,350 tuna in 1978 to 8,200 in 1979, but this was largely due to the elimination of the fourteen pound minimum. As a result, the average weight decreased from 23.5 to 19.5 pounds. However, what little historical data remains indicates that the fishery was once of a much greater magnitude. For instance, a 1941 survey at Freeport shows a catch of 16,084 school tuna—7.2 per trip. That's almost twice as much at one port as was caught along the entire coast last year! Another 1941 survey put the total catch for just New York and New Jersey at 80,000 tuna (almost ten times the present figure for the entire coast) weighing 2,600,000 pounds—an average weight of thirty-two pounds.

Despite this historical evidence, NMFS programs have permitted the four purse seiners and the fifty individuals involved to catch about ninety-three percent of the school tuna taken during the 1977-79 period, and have thrown in about twenty-two percent of the giant tuna as well. This discriminatory action has resulted in great economic benefits to the handful of people involved, while leaving the great majority of citizens holding the bag. It's about time that Terry Leitzell and some of the other top bureaucrats at NMFS woke up and started reading the documents they're putting out. Certainly, any objective analysis of historical participation and economic values in the school tuna fishery would convince the reader that the purse seine fishery cannot continue as long as the tuna population remains low.

If the purse seiners had been very cooperative in staying within the quotas assigned them, there might be some sympathy for their position. However, they have consistently overfished their quotas. Last year, they almost doubled the quota by taking 1,125 tons. Because of the lowering of the school tuna quota, NMFS had allocated more giants to the seiners. Instead of revoking that increase after the school tuna quota was exceeded, NMFS let them go right ahead and slaughter the giants. They increased their giant tuna catch from 326 fish and 84 tons in 1978 to 445 fish and 1,183 tons in 1979. At $2 and more a pound, it's not hard to calculate the value of having friends in the NMFS bureaucracy!

In arguing for assured quotas for the purse seiners, NMFS spells out clearly the impotence of their own actions—which I and many others have been criticizing for many years. The EIS states, "If the purse seine quota of school tuna continues to be exceeded, a further decline in the abundance of immature tuna will probably occur immediately. In time, because of a scarcity of immature tuna being recruited into the larger sizes, a further decrease in giant tuna will occur as well. Such potential declines could have serious consequences for the fishery in several years. There would be little, if anything, that could be done at that time to correct the low abundance of the resource. Once a scarcity is created in the immature (school) tuna, this scarcity is perpetuated through the fishery as the tuna grow. In essence, excess catches by a single purse seine vessel could impact on thousands of other fishermen who are dependent on various size classes of tuna for their recreational and commercial value."

It's too bad it's taken so long for NMFS to acknowledge a problem that's been obvious to observers outside the agency for many years. Yet, the powers that be still insist on trying to put a finger in the dike instead of attacking the problem head-on. The purse seine fishery on school tuna must be suspended until the resource recovers!

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

THANK GOODNESS FOR FALL!

IF AUGUST ENDS, CAN FALL BE FAR BEHIND? No matter how slow a fishing season may be—and this one had few bright moments for the inshore crowd—the fall season always seems to lift the spirits and build anticipation. Autumn is the time of the surf fisherman, but boat skippers don't do too badly either. However, there is something magical about September, October, and November that the surf rat can't find elsewhere at other times of the year. The principal reason for improved fishing in the fall is, of course, the southward and eastward migration of fishes—especially baitfishes. In this week's column, we'll take a look at fall migrations in the hope that this year's fall fishing will be fantastic.

WHEN WE THINK MIGRATION! Our first thoughts about the fall migration would probably include the striped bass the baitfish species. We don't usually think of a fall weakfish migration—but it happens. Weakfish, for all their spring fanfare, are rather sneaky migrators in the fall. The reason for this is that the big fish drift out of the bays after spawning sometime in late May or June. They don't usually leave en masse, but rather trickle away. However, they don't go too far, and for most of the summer they will hang around the inlets or in troughs not too far off the beach. There they will feed and make occasional sorties to the beach at night or up into the inlets, especially towards the end of the summer. In the fall the fish will beat a path to deep water. They generally will not migrate along the beaches the way that bass will. No, instead they will pack their bags and leave for the depths of the Continental Shelf. Yet, it is the young of the year weakfish that follow the point of the compass to the south. They start to pour out of the bays in late September or early October and move along the beach. These huge schools of six to seven inch weakfish will likely be intercepted by migrating schools of bass and blues and thus, the predator becomes the prey—simply on the basis of size. One can only guess about the numbers of young weaks that become food for larger predators, but the number must be large—perhaps millions. Much the same thing happens to young of the year bluefish or snappers. They also migrate along the coast to southern Atlantic states where they will winter over. Again, the number of young snappers lost to predation must be in the millions. However, in both cases, fisherman can enjoy fantastic fishing if they can find a migrating school of young of the year fish and a school of hungry predators in the same place at the same time.

BUNKER AND MULLET! The migrations of these two baitfish species are very different. The mullet, when they are around in substantial numbers, will pour out of the inlets within a few days following the first cold snap, usually in late September. Angling action, especially from the beach and at the mouths of inlets can be frantic, while the mullet are on the move. However, it is a short run typically. In recent years, it has been a non-run simply because there have been too few mullet. However, fish come and go in cycles and therefore we can't tell when the mullet run will again be a south shore phenomena. Bunker, on the other hand, migrate south in the fall in the same kind of spread-out, leisurely way that they moved north in the spring. There is a steady stream of the species, but the schools are not immense and there may be several tides between schools. The best fishing will occur when predators keep the bunker penned-up inside an inlet where they can feed on them tide after tide.

THE NON-MIGRANTS! Not all of the baitfish species migrate, however. Two species, spearing and sand eels, stay around all year. Therefore, these prey species may become increasingly important to the predators late in the season when the larger migrators have already left. For example, in the late 1960s when spearing were very abundant in Long Island Sound, we'd catch substantial numbers of stripers well into December. All that's changed now and we have noted the scarcity of spearing, mullet, and small bunker. Small bunker may be the best bait overall since they are small, but not too small; very abundant, and like to migrate close to the beach. Both their size and behavior favor the successful use of large poppers and swimming plugs and promote excellent daytime fishing.

ANCHOVIES! There have been times when anchovies have been in abundance and these fish, too, migrate in dense schools along the beaches. Although they are generally small (three to five inches), small tins work very well, as do bucktails. Stripers, bass, and weaks will oftentimes chase these baits right into the wash.

TINKER MACKEREL! Lots of luck! In 1977 and again in 1978, there were quite a few tinkers around and this led many fishermen to anticipate upcoming years of great abundance and tremendous fishing. However, they faded again in 1979 and that's why I say lots of luck. Find a migrating school of tinkers and you'll likely have great fishing—but, alas, try and find them!

PORGIES! Porgies often mean great fishing for the boatman. Now, we're not talking about the big boys, but rather the sand porgies. These quarter pound and half pound fish usually migrate slightly south and then off onto the Continental Shelf in late October. Boat fishermen can experience predators ambushing huge schools in troughs, inlets, and deep water rips at this time of the year. Plugs trolled deep at night and diamond jigs in the day are usually excellent imitations of the small porgies. We have also heard of some fishermen livelining the small sand porgies with great success.

EELS! Years ago we used to have a great migration of eels each October. The principal beneficiaries of this migration were Montauk fishermen. Millions of eels would leave the Peconics and move across Shagwong and then across the point and out to sea. However, this event hasn't taken place in a number of years and although the eels still migrate, they do not do so in the dense swarms they once did. Within the last ten years there has been great commercial pressure on eels because of increasing demand and because of the ban on commercial eeling in the Hudson River—once a large supplier of eels.

MORE ON EELS! Where eels are abundant as bait in the water, the fisherman will usually do better by using live eels for bait. However, there are times when this may not be the best choice of baits. For example, when blues stick their noses into the action, the rate of destruction of live eels and the expense might be good reasons to switch to artificial eels such as Tri-Fin's Eels or long tube lures such as the ones made by John Sekora. However, these tube eels must be fished correctly if they are to catch fish. For the caster, the rate and pattern of the retrieve is very important and, likewise, the boatman needs to watch his RPMs and the strength of the tide carefully. It's often best to experiment where the angler can see the lure work: either close to the boat, parallel to the beach, or with an overhead observer. The tubes should not spin, but must undulate back and forth reproducing the same action as a live eel. We have also observed situations when bass become fed up with the eels and may feed with less enthusiasm than when the run of fishing began. However, a fresh bunker thrown into the water can suddenly awaken their appetites.

BLOWFISH AND KINGFISH! Again, these are species of fish that aren't as abundant as they once were. Every once in awhile these two species show some signs of recovery, but a pattern hasn't developed. Also, fishing is unpredictable and we never know when they will again migrate south in large numbers. Usually, it is the young of the year of these species that provides the action for

(Continued on page 13.)

NEW JIGS & LURES

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE JIGS SHOWN HERE WERE SENT TO ME TO TRY OUT AND THEY ALL CAUGHT FISH FOR ME AND MY FRIENDS EVEN THOUGH IT'S SOMETIMES HARD TO TRY SOMETHING NEW WHEN YOU HAVE TRIED AND TRUE JIGS OF LAST YEAR. HOWEVER IT WAS A GOOD SUMMER WITH PLENTY OF FISH FOLLOWING ALL KINDS OF BAITFISH ATTRACTED TO THE NEW YORK BIGHT BECAUSE THE OCEAN HAS BEEN CLEANED JUST A LITTLE BIT!

THE WOBBLE EEL IS A NEW JIG OF THE SEASON THAT IMITATES THE UNDULATING SANDEEL WHEN JIGGED, CAST OR TROLLED FOR BLUES, BASS, POLLACK AND COD. COMES IN 3 & 4 OZ. SIZES IN RED, BLACK & GREEN COLORS. *FROM PETE RENKERT OF BEAD CHAIN TACKLE CO. BRIDGEPORT, CONN.*

JOHN VARANEY OF MINNOE LURE CO., MILLFORD, CONN. IS PRODUCING A LINE OF LURES FOR BOTH SALT AND FRESHWATER FISH. HIS *SPUGS, DEMOS AND LARGE SICOS* TAKE BOTH INSHORE AND OFFSHORE FISH WHILE THE SMALLER *SICOS AND VEENYS* TAKE ALL FRESHWATER GAME FISH. THESE LURES ARE BEST CAST OR TROLLED SWEETENED WITH A PIECE OF SHINER OR OTHER FRESH BAIT.

SPUG WITH REMOVABLE LEAD INSERT ON UNDER SIDE.

3 OZ. SICO

THE REDFIN PLUG BY THE CORDELL TACKLE CO. OF ARKANSAS IS A HIT WITH FRESHWATER STRIPED BASS IN THE SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RESERVOIRS. THIS PLUG TOOK 17 OUT OF THE TOP 20 FISH IN THE *FIRST NATIONAL STRIPER TOURNAMENT.*

900 SERIES REDFIN PLUG

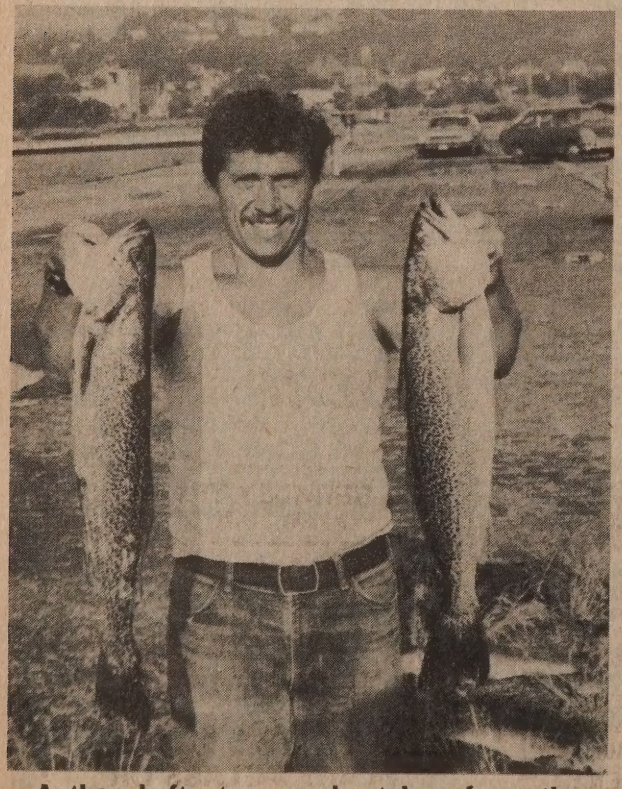
PREDATOR FISH SUCH AS PIKE, BASS & PICKEREL PREFER SOFT RAYED PREYFISH SUCH AS SUCKERS AND SHINERS WITH NO SHARP FINS. WHEN USING PERCH OR SUNNIES FOR BAIT, TRIM THEIR SHARP FINS WITH SCISSORS.

AFTER THE FIRST FROST OF SEPTEMBER CALL IN "SICK" AND GO TROUT FISHING. THE COOLER WATER BRINGS THE FISH OUT OF THEIR SUMMER HOLES, THEY START FEEDING AGAIN, THE PESKY BUGS WILL BE GONE AND THE KIDS BACK TO SCHOOL - REMINDS TROUT SPECIALIST PAUL VAN THOMME OF THE BABYLON, L.I. POST OFFICE.

STATEN ISLAND WEAKFISH

Catching weakfish isn't a very simple process. I wish I could sit down here and tout you on where, when, and how to catch a bucketful. However, unlike most species, you might know where the weakfish are and still come up empty. With this in mind, I'm going to set out in this article to best describe the weakfish haunts in the Staten Island environs, successful methods employed by Island anglers, proper tackle and baits; and tides and times that seem to produce the best results. It will be up to you to put in the necessary time required to check out these places and fish at them long enough so that when the weakfish becomes prone to feed, you might be there.

Let's begin by talking about why the weakfish is so elusive. Can you imagine being a weakfish and having to fear being eaten by some other fish? This is often the case for big slammer bluefish can wreak havoc upon a school of weakfish, especially if that body of weaks is trapped somewhere and can't get away from the blues. So, when weakfishing, it's best to stay out of areas where big bluefish are reported to be. Also, if I should tell you today that the weakfishing was good at a particular place and a school of big blues moves in, there won't be any weakfish at that particular spot for awhile. This was the case last year, for when we seemed to locate the weaks, we'd catch them for a few days, and then everything would start turning up either giant bluefish or dusky shark. Needless to say, few weaks would be caught for awhile. However, offshore is another story. Here weakfish will stick in a particular area, simply because on most occasions they can't get pinned down by the other more aggressive species. At places like these, you'll either receive reports or find out first hand that the big blues are in the area by reeling in either only half a fish or just a plain head.



Author hefts two weaks taken from the Staten Island shore on large Danny swimmers.

With that said, let's get on with where the weakfish feel safe enough to come in close to shore and feed on a daily basis. One of my most favorite spots is at the end of New Dorp Avenue. You can park just about anywhere on this dead-end street and the jetty and storm sewer are only about one hundred yards from the end of the road. At the jetty, you can cast swimming plugs due east on out into the Raritan Bay. You can also prop up a pole in the sand and cast out a still bait which can also take a weakfish or two.

As for bait fishing, this is a shallow beach. Therefore, I use a rig which is a combination fish finder and bottom rig. It's made by putting a barrel swivel at the end of your line. Then, run forty pound test line through a pyramid sinker some two feet and attach another barrel swivel. Now, using ten pound test line, run some eighteen inches of it through a cork float and attach a size #2 gold baitholder hook to the end. This may seem like a lot of work, but it's really quite simple.

As far as bait, I prefer to fish live snapper blues. We simply catch 'em off the beach on a small pole, which my kids usually do and once caught, I impale them on the hook through both the upper and lower jaws. I cast this offering out off the jetty; I adjust the drag, and I place the pole in either a crevasse in the jetty or in a sand spike. Then, I cast my other pole until one or the other registers some action.

Other good weakfish baits include: shedder crabs, squid strips, and either blood or sand worms. The rig I've just mentioned is used equally well with all of these baits. Remember to leave a long tail of bait hanging off the hook. DON'T ball up your bait. Most game fish and especially weakfish like to take in a long strip of bait.

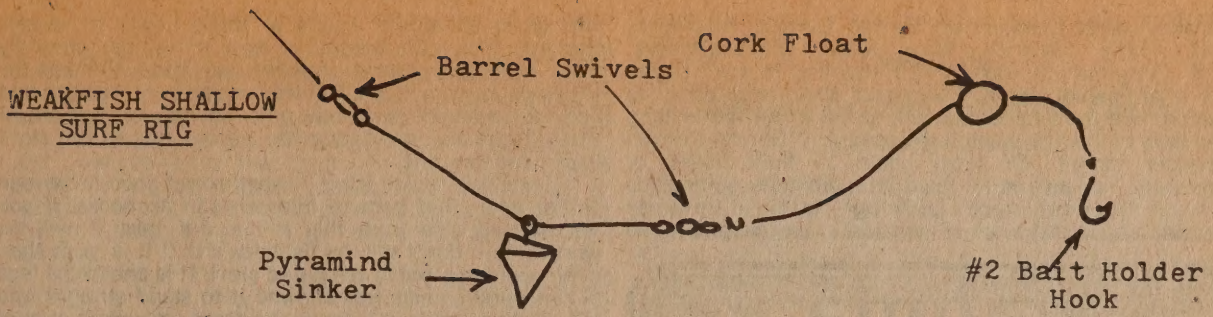
The best times to fish this method should be and are very early in the morning, and then again late in the afternoon, especially at the peak of a high tide, should it fall during that particular part of the day. Weakfish are notorious tide runners, and they're often referred to by that name. On New Dorp Beach, I prefer to fish a high tide peaking at around eight in the evening. I get to the jetty about seven and I'll fish until well into darkness.

Another thing that you can do to catch this beautiful fish is to fish for fluke using snapper blues for bait. Simply cast out the snapper on a fluke rig and start your retrieve. Should a fluke hit, you've got a great tasting meal, and if a few weakies invade the area, they wouldn't be too shy to pick up the intended fluke offering. I like to fish this way because I like to catch something and in so fishing this way, you can get two for the price of one. Also, if the weakfish don't show, you may have a couple of fluke to show for all your effort.

Don't give up on weakfish after dark, either. They'll hit equally well at night as they will during the day. In fact, that's another reason why you might know where they are, but they won't bite. For you see, their feeding schedule can very well be smack dab in the middle of the night and this will leave you high and dry during the day. So, if you're not too successful during the day, ask around and see if you can't get onto just when the fish are biting the best.

One stop that you should make is at J.J. Tackle Shop. John has all the bait that you'll need. He has plenty of good advice and best of all, his shop is just off of New Dorp Avenue on the other side of Hylan Blvd.—four streets on your left from my favorite fishing spot.

Another spot to catch big weakfish is out at the end of the Gateway Federal Park. Simply drive out to the end of the road, park, and you're about a hundred yards from another jetty. However, off of this jetty some 200' is a channel running from the mouth of Great Kills Harbor on out to a bell buoy marking its entrance. Here in the channel, you can often score with some mighty big weakfish and blues. If the blues show up though, you're going to have to change your rig, because they'll simply tear you up if you're using ten pound test leaders and not



wire hooks. Therefore, when fishing this channel, which is primarily night fishing on an outgoing tide, I opt for a bluefish rig rather than the weakfish rig I told you about earlier. This rig simply substitutes a length of wire leader from the sinker on out to the hook. This way should a blue strike, at least you'll stand a chance of getting him in.

While casting lures from here or anywhere at night, you should keep in mind that these fish will normally take a slower moving lure at night than they will during the day. Also, a slower moving lure tends to dive deeper. Therefore, you should keep your pole tip up, thereby reducing the possibility of foul hooking the bottom. Favorite lures used in these parts are either the all-white 3½ oz. Danny Plugs or a bucktail jig fished with some sort of tail-hooked teaser. Pork rind or squid make suitable tails and sometimes a strip of mackerel will make the difference.

Right now, let's look at the tackle you'll require in order to catch these sleek adversaries. Important here is that you don't get confused. Weakfish tackle, for the most part, is a lot lighter than tackle used for other game fish species. However, when fishing off a beach, you've got to consider getting to the fish. Now, I'm not pushing heavy tackle, which I hardly ever use, but I am saying that at times, you'll be much better off with a surf pole than you'd be with perhaps the freshwater trout outfit you might use if you were out in a boat. Therefore, get yourself something flexible yet strong enough to make long casts.

The line you use is also important. I prefer ten pound test. With such line, you can cast "a mile" and the line is certainly strong enough to land a fish many times the size of the average weakfish. One point to consider here is that if you're doing a lot of casting, the ten pound test line can fray easily and because of this, you stand a good chance to cast off several expensive lures. Therefore, may I suggest that you ever so often pull off several feet of line and re-attach your lure with a new know. Now you won't be so prone to snap your line on some long cast.

Any spinning reel will do; but again, I prefer one designed for surf fishing with a big spool so that big loops of line can come off easily. Reels such as these cast much further than those with a smaller spool. Consider this the next time you watch some old pro cast and you're standing there not getting out near where he is.

Another good spot to catch weakfish is off of the Stapleton Piers. Here you can make long casts and if the weakfish are in the area, they usually cooperate. Big casting plugs such as the Atom, the Danny plug, and Rebel lures all work well. Simply cast 'em out and retrieve at a rather slow speed. Once you've felt like you've hooked a log or the bottom, pull up for all you're worth and you'll probably be into a weakfish.

Here the weakies usually hug the piers and they leap out at the lures just as they're coming into your sight very near the piers. You can really get surprised at how they hit here, so don't give up until your lure is all the way in. Also, since there are many piers in this area, don't consider one more potential than any other. I like to fish the least crowded extension of land; however, I always make certain to fish with someone. For, you see, on the piers you are well above the water and should you hook into a fish, you'll need someone to net him for you.

Other good spots exist around the Island and if you get around and fish such places as Red Bank, where the Red Bank Reach or shipping channel comes in real close to the beach, you can get in on some really hot action.

Also, if you can get out under the Verazzano Narrows Bridge in Fort Wadsworth or if you can fish just outside the fort off of South Beach, you can get in on some good fishing, too. Just keep these places in mind and scout out these locations perhaps on some rainy Sunday and then when you hear that the fish are in, you'll at least know how to get into where they are being caught.

Well, that's about it from here. Remember, we can tell you about where to go and we can tell you how it is, but you can't really score unless you are truly persistent.

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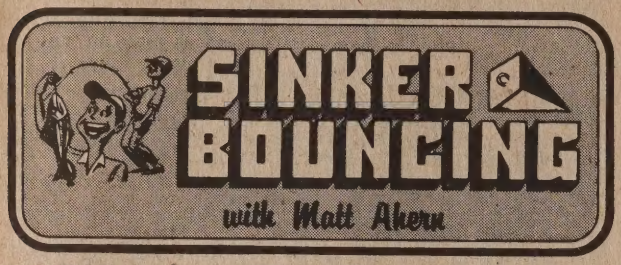


Selecting The Right Hook

The names Chestertown, Sproat, Carlisle, Aberdeen, Kirby, Limerick, Claw, Beak, O'Shaughnessy, Virginia—do these mean anything to you? If you are a dedicated bottom fisherman, they most certainly should. Are you a fisherman who walks into a tackle shop and says to the man behind the counter: "Gimme a dozen flounder hooks?" Or porgy hooks; or fluke hooks; or whatever. I'm sure you'll have little difficulty getting the correct flounder hook (although lately I've seen substitutes...substitutes I wouldn't be caught dead using). But those porgy, sea bass, fluke hooks, etc., when requesting these, you may or may not get the proper hook to do the best job.

Whose fault is it should you receive not quite the right type? Is it yours, or can you lay the blame on the man behind the counter? Yours, my good friend, and yours alone.

Don't blame the man behind the counter; he's given you exactly what you asked for, although it's possible his idea of flounder hooks and your idea of flounder hooks may not be the same. Suppose you asked for sea porgy hooks without knowing there are several varieties you can use—some certainly better than others. If you do this, you have only yourself to blame if those porgies turn tricky and you have much frustration trying to sink the hook.

That busy man behind the counter is not about to go into a long spiel over the possible fish-catching ability of a #5 Virginia over a #1 Sproat. He knows each will catch porgies, so his conscience is clear—but if he's up to his armpits in #1 Sproats, the chances are excellent that's what you'll get. However, had you known exactly what to ask for, you'd get the hook which is sure to do a better job on tricky sea porgies: the #5 Virginia.

But if you walk into that tackle shop wanting blackfish hooks and say: "Virginia hooks, please. Gimme a dozen number fives," that's exactly what you'd get—the only hook to use for blackfish. So, in this respect, a word to the wise is sufficient.

And it is the wise fisherman who knows his fishhooks. Should you doubt this, the next time you're out there and you notice one particular fisherman getting most of the action, spend a minute with him getting the lowdown, and in particular ask him about fishhooks. What he'll tell you about fishhooks may not only surprise you—it may amaze you. For such knowledge is what makes him a good fisherman.

The fact that such a fellow is a good fisherman doesn't amaze me, though. In fact, I would be amazed only if he weren't. Hook fanatics make the best fishermen—and they always will. Those fellows who lack interest in hooks are doomed to mediocrity in the bottom fishing game. It has always been so.

Many years ago I knew one particular fisherman who was a true hook fanatic above and beyond the call of duty. I have never met another like him. This fellow would take any of our ordinary fishhooks and alter them to his exacting specifications. Because his dad had been a horseshoer, he knew the principles of tempering steel. And this knowledge he used to convert those ordinary hooks into the most outlandish designs you'd want to see. But those hooks caught more fish with less effort than any I've ever used. Any fish for which they were designed was a gone goose the instant it opened its mouth.

Because we were pretty good buddies at the time, I was given an ample supply of these hooks in various designs, plus information on how to temper steel by color—the knowledge of which was supposed to enable me to design my own hooks. But this was all over my head and I couldn't make heads or tails of it. I no longer have any of these hooks and my buddy has passed on; so I'm right back to square one.

I mention this to show to what extent good fishermen will go when they become interested in fishhooks. If you get nothing else from this article but this, it will be worthwhile—don't sell the fishhook short! It is more than a thin, curved piece of tempered steel. It is one of the legs of civilization which has allowed it to stand straight and tall. It has enabled us to leave the dreary mountain cave of old Oog, the Neanderthal.

It would be a fine thing for fishermen if one hook sufficed for all fish. How easy then the fisherman's task. All he'd have to do would be to walk into that tackle shop mentioned before and say to that man behind the counter: "Gimme a fishhook." How simple. How easy. Just as well. The more effort put into something, the greater return.

And certainly the more effort put into learning the correct nomenclature of fishhooks, the more certain the return. And to help in this, you'll find listed below those hooks experienced fishermen find most likely to put fish in our buckets with a lot less strain or pain. Each, you will find, is recommended for a particular fish, although some may be used for more than one kind in correct size.

CHESTERTOWN: Flounder fishermen need no introduction to this hook. This is an old-timer and I know it held a favorite spot in my tackle bag over fifty years ago. Because of the flounder's peculiar way of biting, which often causes the hook to be deeply swallowed and difficult to remove, this hook has a long shank. And because of this, coupled with its thinness of wire, it is actually a weak hook for its size. But should a fisherman hook into a large fish and care is taken in its landing, there is no reason he need worry. In its larger sizes when used for snowshoe flounder, I've caught stray cod on them when fishing Montauk's Washington Shoal. And one time in the long ago, I caught a thirty-two pound striper on a #9 while spring flounder fishing in Jamaica Bay. You'll find a number nine or ten best for average flounder. There isn't much difference in size between the two except that the wire is heavier in the number nine.

SPROAT: It is with this hook that the bottom fisherman comes into his own. I don't think there is a fish anywhere in the world which accepts the baited hook that hasn't been caught on this one. Its shape is what we picture when we think of a fishhook. I know there isn't one of our local bottom feeders I haven't caught on this hook. It

Select the right hook for the job.

is strong for its size and penetrates quickly. In its smaller sizes, it is easily returned to shape when sprung. Its one weakness being only that the point tends to be soft, so it is advisable to give it some attention when snagged on bottom. These hooks are extremely reasonable in price, and I believe rather than fuss with a dulled point, it is better to discard. Sproat hooks have been used by codfishermen for generations, and to get an old-timer to change is like pulling teeth. It is also an excellent hook for sea bass.

CARLISLE: This is a long-shanked hook and is the fluke fisherman's favorite. In its smaller fluke sizes—say 3/0—its shank is thin enough to use with live killies. I've caught some mighty big fluke on Carlisles over the years; even in its smaller sizes; it is an ideal hook for the beginning fluke fisherman.

ABERDEEN: This is a thin-shanked hook and is primarily used by live bait fishermen, especially in freshwater. Personally, I find these hooks too soft of temper for rugged saltwater fishing, and outside of using them for snappers on occasion, I'd rather forget them.

KIRBY: This hook is similar in appearance to the Carlisle and is a good substitute. Also good for fish with sharp teeth, such as whiting. These are not in my tackle bag at the moment, but I wouldn't hesitate to use them as they have always given good service.

LIMERICK: This is the hook I often use for cod. It is actually the commercial cod setliner's hook and was developed especially for them. Its oversized eye was designed for their trawl lines. But be that as it may, I am never without them, for once they have penetrated the cod's leather-like jaw, you need never worry about it pulling out.

CLAW: This is an extremely sharp, strong hook with a rolled-in point. This hook comes in many patterns, so be careful when ordering. The nice thing about this hook is that it is quick-biting, taking hold instantly. It can be used successfully for all fish known to be "bait-stealers." In its larger sizes, this hook works well on the leather-jawed cod.

BEAK: Similar to the Claw hook and has the same good things going for it. Many fishermen refer to it as their "never fail hook."

O'SHAUGHNESSY: Much like the Sproat in design, but heavier, often with a forged shank for greater strength. Personally, I am a little "iffy" on this hook. My own experience has shown it takes a little doing to set firmly. Many artificial lures are equipped with these hooks.

VIRGINIA: The only hook to use if you are a dedicated blackfisherman. And well it should be, for this hook was especially designed for these fish. Its offset hollow point and barb quickly anchors itself in the black's tough jaws. I have never seen one pull out, nor have I ever lost a blackfish due to the failure of this hook. It can also be used with good results for most of our bottom feeders except possibly flounder and fluke.

So, that's about it on those fishhooks experienced fishermen are familiar with. Study the list, select those you think are best for you, and the next time you visit that tackle shop, you can ask for the hook you know will do the job. You may eventually do a bit of experimenting with various hooks, but for now you will be off to a good start.

Before I conclude this article, I want to mention this. O. Mustad and Son of Oslo, Norway have put out a guide for bottom fishermen called "Mustad's Guide to the Selection of Salt Water Bait Hooks." They have sent me a supply for readers of this column. Most of the hooks discussed are contained within its pages and in actual size. There is also a bit on saltwater baits and how to use them. All very interesting.

If you'd like a copy, send me a stamped, self-addressed envelope (#10, business size) and I'll send you one. Address me at my home: 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, New York 11946—not to the office, for this will only cause delay and unnecessary expense.

Incidentally about expense. One stamp is all you need on your return envelope. To put on more than one is a waste of postage. If you are ordering more than one and using only one return envelope, then add an extra stamp for each extra Guide.

Fish Talk:
THANK GOODNESS FOR FALL!

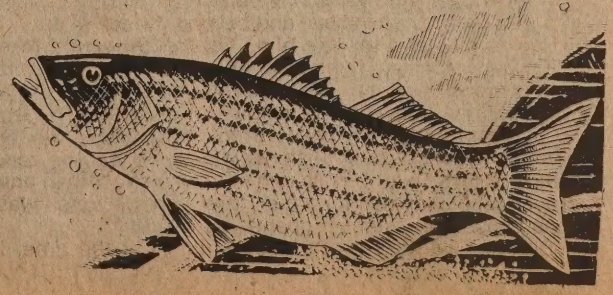
(Continued from page 8.)

fishermen. The small blowfish, often referred to as "golf balls" by some, migrate along the beach most of the time. When this happens bass and blues readily seek them out. Yellow and brown artificials are productive. In the surf darters and bottle plugs are favorites; while from boats bucktails and deep swimming plugs work well. Much the same can be said of the kingfish. The young of the year fish migrate along the surf line. This species is rarely so abundant as to cause a blitz, but often there can be enough of them to produce a steady pick that can last for weeks.

NOT TO BE DISCOURAGED! I don't believe that existing situations, either good or bad with respect to bait, should either excessively boost or depress the spirits. When a certain bait is very abundant, we can get overly optimistic and begin to believe that this is the way things will be forever. On the other hand, scarce bait will not be scarce forever. In short, there is only one way to be a successful fisherman and that's to go fishing and try. There are a number of reasons to be optimistic this fall. Great schools of young of the year bunker in Peconic Bay this summer, for instance, will have to migrate east and south. Sightings of significant numbers of mullet in the south bays could mean a good mullet run in the offing. Several years ago a sudden movement of small sea bass young of the year, along the beaches, produced unexpected great fishing for large bass. One never knows and one can only try and anticipate.

A FEW LAST THOUGHTS. We'd like to pass on a few additional thoughts that have been suggested to us by some fine fishermen. They suggest that we use larger artificials in the fall. The predators are really putting on the feed bag in order to build up fat reserves that will last them through the winter. Thus, they are aggressive and even the small members of the species aren't reluctant to hit large baits. Thus, whereas small lures are usually better in the spring when the feeding aggression isn't quite at such a fever pitch and when young of the year baits are still very, very small, in the fall the opposite is true. Many a fisherman has seen a school bass jump on an Atom 40, for example. Thus, big baits will increase your chances of catching a big fish and at the same time won't hurt your opportunity of picking up the smaller fellas either.

CHANGE YOUR LINE! Many of us have changed the line on the reels before the season began and if you have fished hard, the line may be stretched and worn by now. Thus, it might be good to re-spool. After all, you don't want to miss that "fifty" when it comes because of weak line that breaks at a critical time. Likewise with hooks. Many of the nice new sharp hooks that you put on in winter are rusted and weak by now. This is the time for big fish; so replace those hooks and sharpen them to a needle point. Cleaning and lubricating the reels probably wouldn't be a bad idea, either. The weather has a habit of getting sloppy and cold now and the reels will take a lot of abuse—make sure they're in tiptop shape! Good luck this fall. Drop us a line if you do well and we'll share it with our readers.



Panfishing In BROOKLYN

Part Two — by Sal Terranova

Snappers are the young of the battling bluefish, and who hasn't heard of them? Providing great sport for legions of anglers who pursue them all along the Coast, blues are reknowned for their voracious appetites, bloodthirsty instincts and grade A fighting ability. Pound for pound, few indeed are the fish in the sea that can outclass blues in fighting ability. Snappers are like their elders in every respect save one—and that's size. Their viciousness, insatiable appetites and savage strength match, if not surpass, that of their parents and grandparents. One can likewise say that ounce for ounce, rare indeed are other fish that can match the snapper's scrappiness.

Size-wise, the first snappers that appear early in the season are very small—four to five inches in length. These tiny fish will start streaming into inshore waters around the middle of July. As the run comes into full gear by the middle of August, the snappers will be running from six to eight inches. September sees good snapper fishing, and it is in this month that the largest snappers from nine to twelve inches will be caught amongst the more average sized fish. These "giant snappers" (or midget blues) can run up to three-quarters of a pound in weight, putting up quite a tussle on a light spinning stick. The expression of unmitigated exuberance that flashes across a kid's face when he or she tangles with one of these midget dynamos deserves to somehow be magically preserved and placed in a museum. Snappers hang around into October, albeit in ever declining numbers, until the autumnal winds chill the water to the point where their better instincts tell them it's time to head for greener pastures.

Like porgies and lafayettes, it is at this time of year that the largest ones will be caught. The prime time for snappers is probably the entire month of September. Fortunately, the timing of the snapper run coincides nicely with the porgy and lafayette run, and it's a safe bet to say that these three scrappers have provided many a kid with a fun-filled day.

The same type of rod and reel combos that you would use for porgies and lafayettes will do nicely for snappers. For those of you who have short memories or didn't read The Fisherman last week, briefly, your outfit should consist of a light, 5½' to 6½' freshwater spinning rod with matching lightweight spinning reel filled with six to ten pound test mono. The traditional bamboo pole will suffice if you are fishing off a pier. However, if you are going to fish from a beach or jetty, or intend to cast lures, you will obviously need a spinning outfit. In the long run, familiarizing your children with the use of more advanced gear than a cane pole will prove beneficial.

The same stages of the tide that provide the best action with porgies and lafayettes will also prove to be the most productive with snappers in the Brooklyn area. Again, two to three hours before and after high tide will be the best time to fish for all three species.

Snappers are considered a top-water species, unlike porgies and lafayettes, who comb the bottom in search of invertebrate organisms for sustenance; snappers roam at all depths. In pursuit of small baitfish which are numero uno on their menu. This menu includes most any fish that swims and is smaller than they are; with the prime victim and thus the preferred bait being spearing. Killies and small pieces of clam are also good baits, as well as small pieces of most any fish, including snappers themselves.

There are two ways in which you can fish for snappers: baitfishing or casting lures. First, let's take a look at baitfishing: how to rig, bait, and techniques employed. The traditional snapper rig consists of a hook at the end of your line, with a float attached three or four feet above the hook. A split shot can be applied a few inches above the hook to keep the bait down if there is a good current running.

The hook I prefer to use for snappers is a #8 Chesterton, which is your standard flounder hook. A #6 Carlisle is a good second choice. I urge you to stay away from prepackaged snelled "snapper" hooks sold in many sporting goods emporiums. These hooks are usually too large; and although long-shanked hooks are preferable, the extra long shanks on these are ridiculous. The "snapper" hooks are usually snelled with leader material which is much heavier than necessary. This results in the snapper shying away from your bait when they are in a finicky mood. I firmly believe that one should never use terminal tackle that's heavier than necessary. The less hardware and the lighter the line and leader you use, the more hits you'll get.

Another disadvantage of prepackaged snapper hooks is the tendency for the snell to be festooned with little red beads and other junk. The only practical purpose those adornments serve is to enable the manufacturer to charge a few extra cents for a package of hooks.

The long shank of the flounder hook will serve two purposes. One, it will guard against the snapper's chafing the line, without having to use a leader. Two, it will enable you to present the spearing in the most natural manner possible.

The most important factors in baitfishing for snappers are presenting the bait in the most natural way possible and hooking them. Needless to say, these two factors go hand in hand. If your spearing is not properly placed upon the hook, you will find yourself retrieving spearing that have been severed below the head with alarming regularity.

One way to bait up with a spearing consists of sticking the point in the mouth, bringing it out from the gill, and sliding the spearing up the shank, finally impaling the hook in the upper back of the bait between the tail and the dorsal fin. This method prevents the snapper from biting short and "snapping" off the aft end of the bait without coming into contact with the metal. The one disadvantage of this method is the tendency for the head of the spearing to slide down the shank, thus curving up into a semi-circular form that lacks natural appearance. A way to prevent this from happening is to insert the point in the spearing's mouth and force it through the body by threading the bait onto the shank. The point should emerge somewhere near the vent, on the lower aft part of the spearing's body. This method not only holds the bait better, but also pretty much conceals the hook, which can be a big plus when snappers are in a finicky mood.

Some people can take anything to

extremes—even snapper fishing. Some "snapper sharpies" (Yes, Virginia, there are snapper sharpies) go as far as to employ a hook which has a small bait holder attached to the eye of the main hook, similar to the bait holder employed by some fluke fishermen. The logic behind this dictates that not only will the bait be more securely held, but the two hooks will nail any smart alecky snapper that decided to strike one particular end of the bait. While there is no question that this rig works, it's up to you whether or not you want to go to such lengths to catch snappers. Just keep in mind that the point of the hook should be in the rear of the bait to discourage short strikes and that the spearing should be made to appear as natural as possible (straight and flowing, not bunched up) and you'll be okay.

When using a float, the way to hook a snapper is to keep your eye on the float, waiting for the first telltale sign of a strike which will be usually transmitted to you when the float commences to bounce and shake. Don't you dare hit that snapper yet! Wait until he pulls the float completely underwater. Strike then, and you should have him. If there is any kind of current running, you can do without the float. Although the float facilitates things for the kids, it really takes a lot out of the snapper's struggle due to the water resistance encountered by the float as you reel your monster in. With a decent current running, feed your line in the flow with a couple of split shot on it—a la bluefish chumming. Not only will you get more out of the snapper's tussle, but this method will directly telegraph the bite to your hand, due to the elimination of the cumbersome float. When fishing in this manner, keep the bail open, checking the flow of line with your index finger, while occasionally letting the line out with the current. Upon getting a hit, release the line with your finger, while turning the handle of the reel with your other hand so as to snap the bail shut and to prevent any more line from flowing out. The split second interval between these two actions will give the fish a little bit of slack, allowing him to swallow the bait. After snapping the bail shut, raise the rod, and you've got him. This method is not only more fun, but is deadly once you've got the timing down.

Whenever possible, purchase fresh dead spearing or use an umbrella net to catch your own. Frozen spearing work, but fresh are much better and being more firm of flesh than the frozen, will stay on the hook more easily.

If you really take your snapper fishing seriously, there are a few tricks you can employ to increase your score. The previously mentioned "snapper sharpie" will use chum to coax the fish, and even go so far as to use live killies for bait when the snappers are playing hard to get. Chumming for snappers is a simple matter. Get a small pail, fill it half full with sea water and empty a couple of cans of any fishy cat food or oily sardines into it. Stir the snapper stew to mix, and then fling teaspoonfuls of the goo into the briny at **regular** intervals. Take it easy; you want to whet their appetites—not fatten them up for the fall migration. Don't chum if you are fishing from the beach, for the surf will just deposit it back at your feet. Chumming is very effective from a boat, but in our case, is best utilized from piers or jetties when the tide is flowing at a right angle to the structure. If you have ever been driven to the zenith of frustration as legions of snappers merrily break the water while cavorting all about you, totally ignoring anything you throw at them, get yourself some live killies. Hook the killies gently through the back, taking care not to hit the spine and cripple them; cast them out and watch out! If live killies don't elicit any response from the snappers, it's time to go home.

If your kids possess the basic ability to cast, you may elect to fish lures for snappers. Taking snappers via lures can be lethal at times, and to my mind a lot more enjoyable than staring at a float until you get heavy-eyed.

Snappers are suckers for just about any shiny spoon or tin. Popular lures are Hopkins, Kastmasters, Daredevle spoons and my personal favorite—the Seneca sidewinder in the 1/8 oz. size. Obviously, any lure you decide to use for snappers should be small, weighing between 1/8 and 1/4 oz. The technique is simple: cast out as far as possible, let the lure sink a few feet below the surface, then retrieve straight in at a rapid rate. Hopefully, the snappers will give chase, often following the line almost to your feet before hitting it. Sometimes snappers will not be overly responsive to your enticements. You will probably pick up one or two, and then all the action will cease, as though word got around the school that Oscar, the snapper and Herman the snapper each took a swipe at one of these creations and haven't been seen since. At other times, they will follow the lure practically all the way in and then shy away from it at the last moment. To counteract these perverse tendencies, you can try several different approaches. Begin by varying the speed and depth of your retrieve. If that doesn't work, reel in fast and suddenly stop the lure dead in the water, for a second or two, then retrieve rapidly again. Changing angles of the retrieve by shifting the rod to different positions, thereby causing the lure to come in on a zigzag pattern may work wonders at times. Slightly jerking the rod to jig the lure as you retrieve may also produce results.

If all these variations fail, switch lures. If that doesn't work, switch to bait. If that don't work... Seriously, when using lures, always experiment with all manners of retrieves. Sooner or later, you'll hit the correct formula, or at least you'll know which ones don't work.

There are numerous areas along the Brooklyn shore line that will produce porgies, lafayettes and snappers. Suffice it to say, almost any spot with fairly clean water along the shore line will, at one time or another, hold a few fish. However, there are favorite spots which offer decent fishing and are more accessible to the angler. The 69th Street pier, located northeast of the Verrazano Bridge marks the westward boundary where you find action before encountering the far-from-pristine waters of upper New York Harbor. The pier is located at the foot of Bay Ridge Avenue in the neighborhood which bears the same name. It is ringed with a shoulder height chain link fence which is inconvenient, but will at least put your mind at ease as far as the children are concerned. I would advise staying away from this area at night, urban crime problems being what they are. Traveling eastward towards cleaner waters, the bulkhead almost directly underneath the Verrazano Bridge in front of Fort Hamilton, off the foot of Fourth Avenue is always worth a shot. Although anglers are not officially permitted access to the structure by the Army, this regulation is rarely enforced. The rocks that line the seawall along the Belt Parkway in front of the Veteran's Administration Hospital are very good. Look for the area where the stone wall meets the metal fence. There is a good hole about twenty yards to the west of this juncture and about thirty feet out into the water. Watch out for the kids on those rocks, though! Further along the seawall, Bay 8th Street point and the pedestrian walkway over the parkway at Bay 17th are worth a try, as is the eastern end of the seawall at Bay Parkway. The Korvette's Department Store here extends out on the water, partly supported by pilings. The walkway encircling the back and eastern side of the building is a popular spot. It is encircled by a fence, which should allay your fears of a child going for an impromptu swim.

Leaving the Gravesend Bay area, Steeplechase Pier in Coney Island is good, especially for porgies. However, it can also get very crowded, especially on weekends and I would not advise staying here after dusk. The bulkheads and piers that line Sheepshead Bay are particularly noted for snappers and will also provide fair amounts of porgies and lafayettes. The wooden Ocean Avenue footbridge running across the Bay, connecting Emmons Avenue with Manhattan Beach is a favorite snapper spot. Technically, anglers are not allowed to fish off the structure, but our boys in blue won't bother you unless you go out of your way to be a nuisance. Bait and tackle here are a short walk away. There are three overpasses along the Belt Parkway spanning various creeks and inlets

(Continued on page 45.)

Bonito & Albacore

by Richard Giessuebel

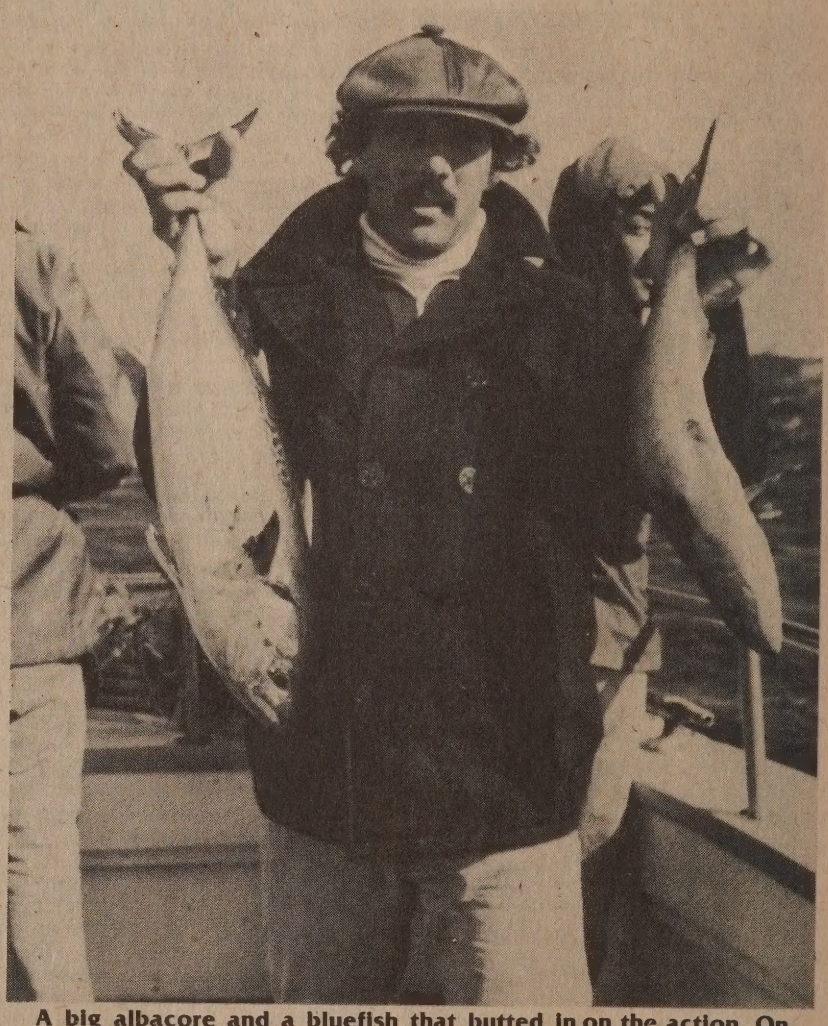
When the big fish hit, you just knew it wasn't a bluefish. The hit was much more powerful, and the moment the hook stung home, it felt as if you were foul hooked into a runaway locomotive. Off it went, taking line all the way. Then, without ever turning, it dug down deeper and deeper. Fighting the fish was a tiring experience; trying to keep the pole's tip up took quite a bit of effort. However, after several minutes of this kind of action, the big striped green monster slowly approached the boat. There, still not willing to be had, it turned tail and made one last ditch effort to escape. The tired angler was again faced with getting the fish back up to the side of the boat—only this time, being much more tired, the fish was able to stay down about six to eight feet where he made figure eights under the stern of the boat. Reaching for one last bit of strength, the angler pulled the fish up where it felt the sting of the gaff.

"Albacore," went the cry and everyone around the rail was alerted to the fact that there were some ten to fifteen pound torpedoes in our slick. "What should I do to catch one of them?" someone asked. "Just keep fishing now," came the reply. "If you don't get one fast, the chances are that they'll be gone in a couple of seconds."

More poles now bent forward, drags all singing and the barrage was on. One albie, then another hit the deck, but as so often happens, as quckly as the action had all begun, it ended.

The above description characterizes most albacore sorties, but one point not covered is that these sorties might occur several times on and off throughout the day. Also, fishing for albies is pretty much hit-and-miss; however, their ever-present sidekick the bonito, usually picks up the slack where the bigger albacore leaves off. Fill a slick with bonito and undoubtedly, you'll have albacore cruising in and out. Bluefish will also join the party, and when they do, stand by for some mighty fast fishing—'cause once the blues get into competition with the bonito, the bonito turn on and try to beat the blues to the baits. As a fisherman, you truly don't mind this situation. And occurrences such as these make for full bags and happy days.

In this article, we'll get into where to go to catch these truly great fighting fish. The baits that you'll require and the techniques that are employed on most successful outings. Locations are important, because albacore and bonito hardly, if ever, venture into the very shallow waters right along our coast, preferring to stay somewhat offshore where they chase and usually catch their favorite baitfish staples. These fish usually consist of tinker mackerel, snapper blues, baby jacks, and sand eels. So, let's get on with it and see the locations that are most prone to give up these two species.



A big albacore and a bluefish that butted in on the action. On light tackle, these members of the tuna clan are tough customers.

Boats heading out of Sheepshead Bay and Staten Island in pursuit of bonito and albacore usually head south. The 17 Fathom Bank is one of the first locations where party and charter boats in the area stop to see if the fish are around.

The bank lies about six miles directly off the Highlands in New Jersey. Here, the Mud Hole begins to drop off to ever deeper waters. There's usually a lot of bait, and here's where blue tropical waters makes its presence seen. Just such a situation beckons bonito and albacore.

Further south, the Klondike Bank located about 3.5 miles southeast of Belmar Inlet usually gets its fair share of bonito and albacore late in August and they can stay here well on into September. Last year, it wasn't unusual to see boats from all over the coast, north and south fishing for bonito and albacore at the Klondike Banks. If this is the case, however, New York boats have got to leave the dock early in order to get the prime spots on the Bank. Therefore, if you intend to fish the party boat fleet, make certain to check out well ahead of time exactly when your favorite boat plans to depart. Early arrivals at

the Bank can corner the bonito into their slick, while late arrivals can only sit and watch the other boats clean up. Sometimes, one New York boat will bite the bullet very early. This'll guarantee that one of the fleet will be into bonito and should the rest of the fleet show up later, the boat which has already had its fill can call another boat in which anchors very near to the first and effectively takes the chum slick over, while the first boat weighs anchor and either heads back to the barn or goes off in search of another species.

Sometimes bonito and albacore show up first somewhere up the Long Island Coast. When this occurs, Sheepshead Bay boats might range up to as far off as perhaps Fire Island. In any case, New York boats usually have to travel in order to catch these two favorites.

If you're not too prone to riding it out in a boat, then you might consider riding it out in a car. Travel south on the Garden State Parkway to Belmar, New Jersey. There, you'll find another fleet fishing the Klondike, which is about a twenty-five minute ride for them. In Belmar, you can have a private charter, or get on board a party boat. The ride in the car sure can't compare to the ride in a boat. You should consider fishing like this, especially when you consider that you'll have so much more fishing time if your boat riding time is cut down. It might cost you a little more in the sleep department—but then, when it comes to fishing, who can sleep anyway?

Catching bonito and albacore again presents its own special problems. First of all, these fish are exceptionally fast. Therefore, slow moving lures just won't do. If you've got to get those lures flying, well then, fishing's more like work, and it's only a matter of time until you're looking for something easier to do. The easy thing to do, therefore, is what I'll start off explaining.

The easiest way to get bonito and albacore is by drifting mackerel or baby jacks back into a bunker and mackerel slick. Sounds easy enough; but there are certain things that you're going to have to do if you want to be consistent. Consistency in this case is referring to the act of catching fish. One thing that you can do is to use a hook with a very short shank. We use tuna hooks which are very short shanked hooks that can be hidden very nicely in any bait previously mentioned. You can't use a wire leader. Should bluefish show up, you're going to have to fish in such a way that the blue will steal your bait—hook and all—every time. This doesn't sound like fun.

Well, the end justifies the means. Bonito will bite drifted baits fished on short shanked tuna hooks fished without leaders. Now, we'll add some further inconvenience by stating to really coax the green speedballs into biting, you should use lighter pound tests than the ones you usually use to catch blues. This is because the bonito and albacore swim in tropical waters that are crystal clear and the finer the line, the better the chances of catching the fish. All right; I agree, it all sounds a bit too much. Fishing for fish that, if blues come along (and we know they're all over the place this time of year), they'll force us to retreat and tie another hook back on. Well, here's how to avoid all that trouble.

Before the boat reaches where it's going, tie on a six inch wire leader and tuna hook combination. Fish this rig until you can ascertain just what kind of fish you've got in your slick. Should it be blues—stick to your rig, but understanding that you've got lighter line on, take it easy while reeling the blue in. However, should the slick come up bonito, then change over to the unleadered hooks and try to get in on the action. Last year, I had days where the bonito took leadered as well as unleadered hooks. If your first fish is a bonito, and you caught him on a leadered hook, then don't even consider changing. But, if everyone else is into fish, and you aren't getting any hits, then by all means change over quickly.

How heavy a test is heavy? Well, I've been out fishing where nobody's receiving a hit. The recorder shows fish under the boat, but none of them are cooperating. I then break out my freshwater outfit with six pound test on and drop back a piece of bait only to have it engulfed immediately. This indicates one of two things: you're feeding the fish too good with the chum—cut down on your generosity; or your lines are **far** too heavy.

You shouldn't expect any trouble using fifteen pound test lines. I like to fish either Pink Ande or any other neutral color line that I can find. These all seem to work well for me. If you don't have such light line on, and others are catching fish, then you know the problem. The remedy is simple. Braid on some lighter line to your heavier line. You needn't put more than ten feet or so on. This, then will solve the problem of the light line.

While drifting bait back, I always try two things. First, let the bait get right down under the boat. Hits should come within twenty pulls of line off your reel. If no hit, try to cast the bait off in the direction of the drift of the chum. Then I let it drift from there. I alternate these two drifts and eventually, one or the other will take fish. Stick to the one catching them, then, but every other fish or so, try the other location again.

Another way to get bonito and albacore is by speed squidding them. This is a process of work. Using a diamond jig, or small spoon, cast out and allow to sink to the bottom. Once the line has stopped coming off of

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your reel, engage the reel, and start to reel in for all you're worth. If you get bumped, but no fish, you're reeling too slow. In fact, I bet you can't reel too fast. So, if others are getting 'em, let it all hang out and start cranking that handle. After an hour of this, you'll know why the guys around you spent so much money on their outfits. Usually, on a boat such as this, most guys are fishing **high speed** reels. That's why their reels turn much faster than the regular reels and this allows them to turn the crank slower.

Catching bonito and albacore at this point is usually luck. You've got to take what comes along, even if it's color is blue. Remember, when using the diamond jig, even the blue is your friend. He can't bite through your lure, but what he can do is get his body around on your line where it'll most certainly wear through and in most cases, break. Therefore, when using light line and lures, make certain to check your line for nicks and abrasions after every fish. Should the line show any sign of wear, cut off the lure, get rid of about five feet of line, and re-tie the lure. This is also a good practice to get into doing on your tenth fish, even though no abrasions exist.

As for the lure, I like to fish diamonds with only a single hook in the back. If I want blues, I put some color rubber tubing over the hook. However, if I want bonito and albacore, I take the tubing off and fish the lure as is.

On occasions, the diamonds prove to be too big for the smaller bonito. When this occurs, I try to give 'em what I feel they can handle. Sometimes, you can get down to an ounce diamond. But I'd much prefer fishing a small spoon when this happens, because over the years I've seen the bonito take a preference to the spoon and, therefore, sometime during the day, you just know I'm going to try it out again.

I like the Krocodile Spoons in the ounce to ounce-and-three-quarters category. These spoons offer a lot of resistance coming back at fast retries; therefore, I fish them at a speed that gives them the best action. This means slow, but often the increased action is way more than enough to compensate for the decreased speed.

Another important thing to know about bonito and albacore is that they are very much like their cousin, the mackerel. If you are catching them, they'll stick in the slick. The more fish on, the more interested fish. This means, if you've got 'em coming over the rail, don't take a break. If anything, leave the fish in the water longer to keep the riled up atmosphere that you've created. This will help the whole output for the entire boat.

Well, that's about it. Remember, bonito and albacore are certainly fighting fish. The bonito is truly a treat, both in the water and in the oven.

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HOW ABOUT PORGIES?

Part Two — by Capt. John DeMaio

My first boat was a ten foot rowboat. It was made of white cedar over oak frames. Before I ever had my first motor, that lightweight beauty was rowed all over Jamaica Bay.

Originally the boat was built in Howard Beach on the canal alongside Cross Bay Boulevard. I fished it there for a couple of years. Then the boat was moved to Broad Channel. From the dock at the Channel to the Marine Bridge was just a little over three miles. On at least a half dozen trips myself and my fishing companion would row the distance there and back. The lure was porgies.

If we fished hard for the porgies and didn't try to catch fluke and other stuff, we could manage a bushel of porgies apiece. Included would be blacks and another fish which I never see anymore. They were either croakers, grunts, or lafayettes. For bait we used clams or worms—mostly clams.

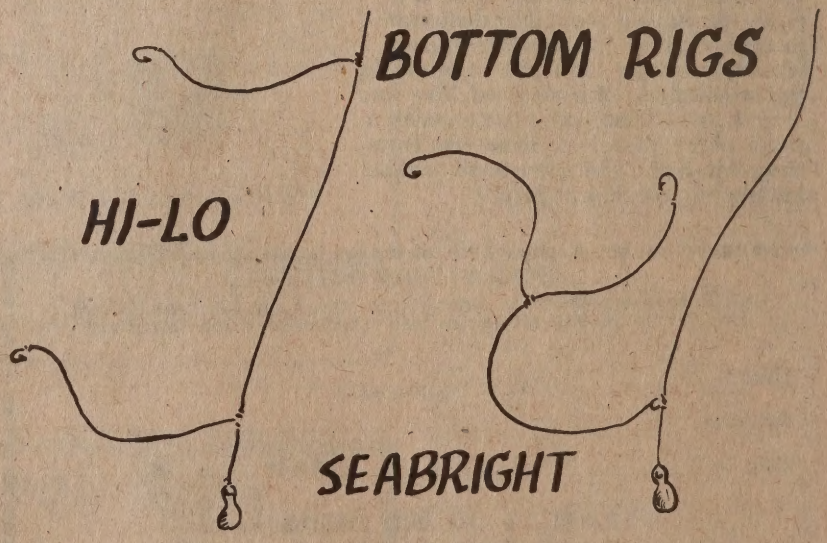
Hooks were either small blackfish hooks or the Chestertown flounder hook. In those years, us kids used flounder hooks for everything. Also at that time there were plenty of good sized fish. The porgies weren't those little sand variety, but averaged around one pound. Catching them was great fun, especially the double headers. This was my first experience jerking porgies.

In years to come larger boats and outboards led me to other areas in search of many species and the discovery of other porgy areas. Anywhere between Breezy Point, Ambrose Channel, and Coney Island you could find porgies.

Before the clam belly chum years, a group of handliners (mostly old-timers) fished the Tin Can Grounds using the old well-known "Guinea Rig" method. A guinea rig was a handline that had a twenty foot leader starting out about one foot over the sinker. On that leader was at least five or six hooks. One fisherman would use two lines. This served several purposes. It put more bait in the water and served as a chum. While one line was out of the water being baited, the other line was still fishing—thereby, hopefully, holding the fish.

Another useful purpose and something not considered by many of today's fishermen, was the ability of this rig to make a hook shy fish bite better.

Unlike Montauk, the Tin Can area was a tricky game fishing porgies. The fish could be spooked very easily. Anchors had to be lowered to the bottom and set to hold without dragging. All you needed was for someone to clumsily lay in an anchor near to you and it could make the porgies stop biting. And so, a rig that would keep the hooks away from the main line could very well be an asset in production.



The last good catch of porgies I was to see in that area was taken by one of these old-timers. He pulled up to the police boat dock at Sheepshead Bay and unloaded a hog's head full of two and three pound porgies. Even though my friend and I were now "hot" bass fishermen, this old-timer commanded our respect. My friend looked at me and said "Good thing this guy doesn't fish for bass, we wouldn't stand a chance." In those years, before the decline in the bass stocks, porgies would be twice the price of bass during the fall season.

In October of 1972, at Montauk I pulled the anchor to get away from annoying striped bass that wouldn't stop jumping on the clam baits. I wanted porgies. Bass were forty cents a pound and porgies were eighty-five cents. When fishing for a buck, price

and availability are what counts—not the glory. My friendly commercial bank does not extend credit on glory.

My first experience fishing porgies at Montauk was on the head boats. We fished a combination of porgies and sea bass. Because of the brief slack periods, we mostly drifted; naturally we didn't chum. When we did anchor, the baits were enough to attract fish. Plus the fish were thicker in those years. (You could drift for two hours and pull fish all the way.)

When we did anchor we would chum the old standby method of knocking over cracked skimmer clams as in codfishing. In the summer months we used mostly all squid bait. Clams were difficult to keep alive and ended up usually being salted down anyway. Squid were cheap and available at the dock.

For porgy and bass bait, the squid was cut into rings and left soaking in their own ink. Sometimes pounding the squid with the sinker against a board would make the bait more appealing. So it was said. I really don't know whether or not it had any value. Even though squid will catch porgies, don't use it as a preference. Clams will definitely outfish squid any time.

Freezing your own skimmers before using them is a favorite trick of many Montauk porgy jerkers; some swear by it, I don't believe it matters. It surely doesn't hurt your fishing and it just may make the fish bite better. At the price of clams today, I would recommend you freeze any leftover bait until the next trip.

As in all fishing, the first step is where to drop the anchor, or hook and sinker. Montauk is no difference, may even be harder. Not only **where**, but **when**. Slack water periods produce best and a knowledge of accurate timing comes slowly. This is why you will see the "porgy fleet" in given areas. Perhaps one or two boats know what they are doing and the rest follow.

This is bad. A bunch of boats ganged up in one area, with everyone chumming, only spreads the fish out amongst the fishermen. If you were anchored by yourself you would catch more fish and use less chum. Sometimes the worst thing you can do is anchor alongside another boat that is into fish steady. Chances are that the boat has the fish chummed up well and you may not be able to draw them away. If you try and you cannot get the fish "started," don't just sit there and watch. Pull the anchor and get out of that area. Go find your own fish. Like Captain Bob Tuma always says, "You can't catch his fish."

Let's get down to basics. A long, light pole is helpful. Use a conventional reel; no more than twenty pound test line on it. Always use the lightest sinker possible. Porgies sometimes will bite best in the height of tide. During this time, it would be impossible to fish straight up and down. Your line should end up somewhere behind the boat as if you were trolling. Remember, the heavier the sinker, the less you feel. Better fishermen will always use the lighter sinkers.

Mustad makes a small eagle beak type hook #92627; I have used this hook from size #2 up to a #2/0 for porgies. I believe that at Montauk, the #1 size should handle just about everything. Keep in mind that small hooks will tear out easily on the running tide. The hook does not penetrate deep enough into the fish's mouth to get hold of something solid. This little hook is a thin wire hook that works quickly. It is a **fast** hook.

The long rod allows you to slow **lift** the fish when biting and will absorb a lot of shock the porgy produces when being reeled in. The light pound test line cuts the tide better allowing for lighter weights and consequently, a better feel. Try to use at least 16" leaders on your hooks. Too many dealers sell the short hook variety. When possible, buy the ones with the lighter pound test leaders.

Two ways of rigging are the Seabright rig and the high and low fashion. You can also use a combination of both which means using three hooks. I use the high-low rig; three hooks are too much to handle and only create tangles. At different times of the tide, either the high or the low hook will do the most catching. The high hook most often dies when the

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tide is moving swiftly.

Chum! The use of chum is almost essential in today's porgy fishing. A chum pot is the thing to use. Throwing the chum over the side is not very effective and it's uncontrollable. Chum pots vary from the simplest form to extravagant designs whipped up in someone's basement during the long, dull winter. My advice is to use what I call the "standard" size chum pot. It can be purchased in any tackle store. The price is about $7; screen mesh size comes in one-quarter and one-half inch. The quarter-inch mesh is suitable for most chums. This pot is a cylinder shape with a swing top on it.

A heavy mono line is better to use on it than any rope. Ropes catch tide and adds drag. In turn, you must use a heavier weight to keep the pot on the bottom. When fishing in a tide, use a four pound weight to keep the pot "down" (on the bottom). Don't tie the mono directly to the pot or weight. Use a length of braided nylon as a chafing line. Even 200 lb. test mono will break at the knots. The nylon will not break and is resistant to chafing. One little tip: always tie the loose end to the boat before letting it go over the side.

Having a spare pot on hand is a good idea. Even with precautions you still lose them. When anchored over rocky, or rough bottom, and the boat is turning around on the tide change, lift the pot safely off the bottom. Over the years I have **planted** chum pots by having them hang in on the swing.

Don't put the weight inside the pot. Tie it to the nylon line. Placing of the weight in relation to the chum pot is important. Try it ahead, or behind. See what works best for you in your given area.

Chumming is an art. Performing this art well can only be accomplished through experience. Perhaps some day I will write an article just on chumming. There is so much to cover.

Absolutely for sure, positively, without a doubt, for real, cross my heart—the best chum to use on porgies are clam bellies. Now comes Catch 22. It is my understanding that clam bellies will no longer be available to us on Long Island. This is due to a new process in squeezing the belly out of the clam. What a shame. Nothing can draw in the big porgies better than clam chum.

Besides bunker chum (which I will get to), you may try grinding your own clams. Or better yet, maybe some bait dealer may give it a try if he thinks it might sell. These people should have the necessary grinding equipment for doing the job right.

Bunker chum will work and is a good second best. Some dealers will offer two ground sizes: regular and fine. The fine will run out the pot better but is not so important. In slow moving tide areas, bounce the pot once in awhile to allow the chum to go through the mesh. Your volume of chum should vary with conditions.

Avoid over-chumming. You may want to try fishing first before chumming. There are times when chumming will have an adverse effect.

Where do you drop the anchor? The use of recorders has taken a lot of guesswork out of it. Still you can't beat experience. Porgies will return to the same areas, year after year. But like striped bass, they can be found in new places. Don't ever forget that porgies are live bait feeders. They will often lock onto a school of sand eels and stay with them. I can tell when the porgies have arrived at the point. They respond to the diamond jigs.

Look for **high spots** on the bottom, such as a ridge or raised lump. Porgies are to be on or near these high spots. Right on top; behind it (down tide) or off to the side. Rocky formations are also excellent. Don't fish high spots only. Great porgy fishing can be had over flat bottom, particularly on mussel bed bottom. So explore. Most important: porgies are a tide fish. At different stages of the tides, the fish will bite best or not at all. They don't always bite best on slack water.

When cutting the clams for bait, make sure you cut the clam as the diagram indicates. Always try to get some of the clam's belly on the hook when using the pieces of the tongue. The necks and lips are harder and make a better holding bait, but the porgy will not always eat them. Proper selection of clam baits are necessary. Always use a piece big enough to cover the hook when fishing for porgies. If you're getting a lot of bites that you don't seem able to hook, don't make the baits smaller. You're only fishing for the little ones then.

Think in this order. Big porgies, big baits, big hooks. Small porgies, smaller baits, smaller hooks.

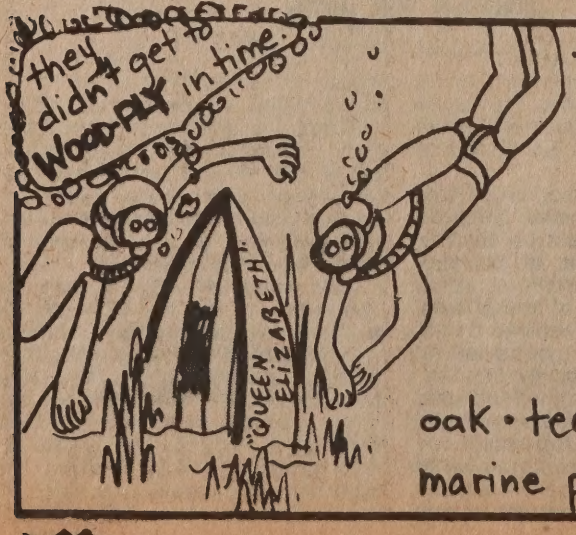
Hooking porgies in the running tide requires some practice. It separates the good from the poor fishermen. The ability to **feel** the sinker on the bottom is something many anglers cannot achieve. The thought of writing an article on how to bottom fish from an anchored boat in a running tide bores me; but I believe there is need for it. It covers a great many aspects of rod manipulation, proper sinker usage, and so forth. Maybe in the future.

My only tip for you now is use the slow lift method. Don't swing at the bite—unless, of course, the fish are pulling the rod out of your hands. Raise the rod slowly as you feel the fish begin to bite. Similar to lifting back on a flounder. If the bite gets stronger, or better yet, you feel the weight of the fish, then swing hard. This slow raise method gives time for the fish to take the bait well and won't frighten him off if he drops the bait.

Once the fish get **thick** under your boat and are lunging at the hooks, anything will work well.

I hope between these writings and the diagrams you will achieve some degree of success. Don't be a snob; get in on the fun. If you're looking for more of a challenge, then try for the big ones only. Throw the little ones back. There is no shame in a catch of porgies.

Only the best fishermen, I repeat, only the best fishermen catch the better porgies.



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MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

Rich Hall of the **West Lake Fishing Lodge** reported a good flurry of mako action on Saturday. The **Ebb Tide** returned with four of the high jumpers. The Anita had three, the My Mate one, the I Deal one and the Four Queens had a pair of makos. Captain Gary Kiefer of the **Barracuda** had two tuna south of the Mud Hole. One was a 262 lber., while the other just topped the 100 lb. mark. For inshore fishermen, blues and bonito have been in good supply at the Sub Buoy on jigs and umbrella rigs. Excellent porgy fishing at the point and some good early season blackfish scores made over the weekend. Captain Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reported a 77 lb. mako for Sal Ciulla. On Friday's charter a 15 lb. mako was taken and released alive back at the dock where it was caught by another angler who also released the small fish. Talk about a cat with nine lives. Plenty of blues, bonito and some weaks at Southwest Ledge and at the Pocketbook Grounds on umbrella rigs and jigs.

Gone Fishing Marina tells us that fishing over the weekend saw giant blues caught on herring. Joe Falke of Queens had blues up to 18 lbs. Don Frazer and crew of NJ boated 30 blues. Fluke were caught at Midway. Richard Huber of Queens bagged 40 fluke up to 5 lbs. Doormats were taken on the south side. Porgy action at Pocketbook and Great Eastern was

Rich Cecilione, on the right, with a doormat fluke of 13 lbs. and Joe Yellis with a 12 lber. Both were taken on a half-day trip aboard the "Viking Star."

100 weaks, 1 bass and 10 fluke for Alan, Don, Bob and Hy. Catch was made on Ava jigs aboard charterboat "Vivienne."

strong on worm and clam bait. Rental skiffs were coming in with loads of porgies. The Pepi II had 1100 lbs. of cod and 300 lbs. of blues from Coxs Ledge and Cartwright.

Charterboat **Julie III** reports that the last two Saturdays Capt Ron and charters caught 2140 lbs. of big blues south of Block Island. The last four porgy charters had been taken better than 500 lbs. per charter. This Sunday was best with 700 lbs. of porgies coming over the side all at Great Eastern and on the south side.

Steve Szoke and Fred Kahl, LIF subscribers, called to tell us that they got 4 mako shark from 55 to 65 lbs. this past week and lost 2 others. They also had a white marlin on. There were all the blue sharks you would want. They fished from their 20' Grady White. They also sighted a huge basking shark which was 4 or 5' across. This was just SE of the Butterfish Hole.

Henry at **Star Island Yacht Club** called to say that the Renegade had a 150 lb. sword at the canyon and a couple of small makos this week. Al Fusco on the boat Yesterday took 146 lb. wahoo and a 25 lb. tuna. Artie Joust on the Sea Hunter got a 35 lb. sword, the first he ever caught. The fluking has been good around North Rips and a 14 pounder was weighed in this week.

Capt Frank of the charterboat **Free Spirit** called to say that bluefish aciton at the Appletree was red hot this week. You can diamond jig all the blues you want. Offshore, the boat had 1 mako and many blue sharks. Frank says his fall trips are booking fast.

Capt Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** of Montauk, sent word that the fall lighthouse porgy run is on. Bulging buckets and heavy bags of porgies are being dragged off the boat. Irv Gardiner of Queens was high hook for the week with 194 medium-medium big silvers. Scores of 40 to 100 plus porgies are a daily occurence. The weekend saw leap job action

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Andy Anselmo, Richie Yonkers, and Donald Wright heft a few of the 60 big blues that they caught on a charter aboard the "Adios."

with 4 anglers Saturday and 5 Sunday going over the 100 fish mark. Sunday's high hook was 141 porgies.

Charter boat **Jigger III** says that any decent fluke fisherman this past week was averaging 6 fluke a man in the 4 to 6 lb. range. Catches are being made mostly at North Rips on squid or sand eel or on big smelts. Friday was a super day with 10 to 20 fluke a man.

Capt Gene Zarcone on the **Drifter** had a 47½ lb. striped bass. On the rod was Larry Karder. This was on the south side on live eel.

Capt Mike on the charterboat **Montauk** called to say that he had very good productive week. During the week his charters scored with 2 makos, 13 longfin tuna and 2 yellowfin tuna. They also had good blue shark action. Saturday's trip to Cartwright was a slaughter on 12 to 14 lb. bluefish. Sunday's trip south of Block Island fished inside the Appletree and diamond jigged 5 to 6 lb. fish.

SOUTH FORK

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES

SHINNECOCK

The **Captain Clark II** reported that blackfishing has improved on both the Peconic bay and ocean wrecks this past week. On Wednesday's ocean trip, plenty of blackfish and sea bass came aboard. Leslie and Dolores Phillips had four pail of sea bass to 4½ lbs. and 15 blackfish including an 8 lb. pool winning tautog. Wednesday's fishing set the pace for

Stan Bigora and T. Stoner with a fine catch of fluke made at Buoy 41 on spearing and squid combos. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

Thursday when L.I.F. columnist Matt Ahern sailed aboard the Captain Clark and reported good action with big blacks and sea bass on the Panther and Bridge wrecks. Fishing slowed Saturday due to wind and tide conditions, but some sea bass and large blacks were taken. Porgy fishing over some of the Peconic wrecks on Sunday was excellent, with over 500 nice porgies being taken in addition to about 100 blackfish to 8 lbs. The boat is now carrying crabs for blackfish fans.

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported that one angler had a catch of nearly 40 porgies from the shore at Towd Point in Peconic Bay over the weekend. Boatmen have been making some big scores at buoy 32. C. and L. Anderson and W. Quarels had several buckets of porgies on Saturday in this area. Tons of snappers in Peconic and Shinnecock Bays for dock fishermen. The flounder fishing worthwhile in Shinnecock Bay and Thom described the fluking near the Shinnecock Coast Guard Station as decent for boatmen drifting sand eel and squid combos. One customer stopped by on his return trip from Montauk with a nice catch of fluke including several from 5 to 7½ lbs. which he took on combo baits along the south side.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** said that boatmen have taken to using Salty Dogs and squid strips to make catches of 8-10 fluke per boat in the inlet and at buoy 41. Good flounder fishing continues at buoys 39, 41, 43 and 44 on worms. Snappers and crabs all over. Small blues just outside the inlet, with choppers up to 10 lbs. now being taken in the vicinity of the Sea buoy. Plenty of small makos still offshore and some school tuna in the 10-25 lb. class were taken by trollers in 125' of water southwest of the inlet late last week.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports that flounder fishing is now improving on a daily basis with best areas being buoys 36 and 41. The area NE of buoy 42 has been producing good mixed bag fishing. Hank Schlanger of Mastic Beach had 17 weakfish and 50 assorted sea bass, fluke, flounders and porgies. Incoming tide appeared to be producing best. Blueclaw crabbing has been great around buoy 44.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz's Fishing Station** tells of lots of snappers from 8 to 14" between 17 and the bridge on spearing and small tin. He weighed in a 5 lb. 2 oz. flounder which was caught at Montauk aboard the **Viking Starship** that fished Coxs Ledge on Wednesday. The angler was John Goodyear of Mastic Beach. Nice catches of keeper blowfish and small sea bass on squid from 17 to the Bridge. Blueclaw crabs from buoys 19 to 12. Fluke have been spotty. Rich and Pat Kantowski had 6 nice fluke up to 5 lb. 6 oz. fishing buoy 23 with sandeels and killies.

SAYVILLE

Charlie at **Young's Fishing Station** reported that weakfishing is in peak form and that kingfish and fluke are mixed with the weaks. Some of the catches made over the weekend included Al Morgan, Irv Schwartzman and Jean Basovitch, who had 25 weaks and 2 fluke fishing the Fire Island shore from Barrett Beach to Point O'Woods. Pete Bilella and Kenny and Ron Bedrosian had 30 weaks, 2 fluke, 1 blue and 1 bass a half mile off of the Pines on the

Allan, Molloy and Alfred Holmes took 33 fluke up to 3 lbs. at buoy 41 on sand eel and squid combos. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.

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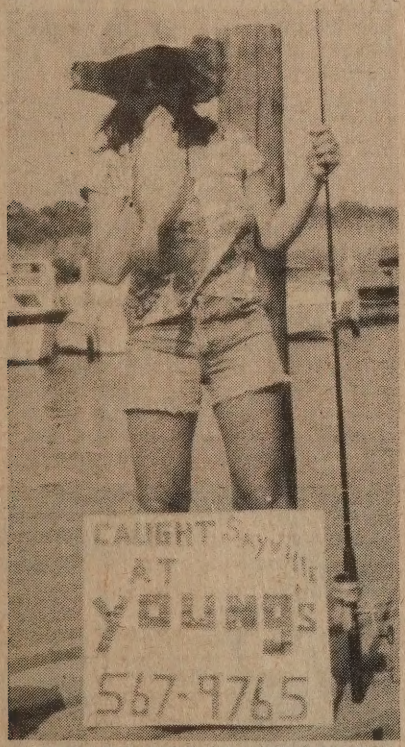
weekend. All of the weakfish action is on squid strips fished on a bottom rig. Snappers are now big and plentiful, while crabbing this past week was just so-so. Rich Torre of the Up Oars trolled 12 blues to 5 lbs. and a 5 lb. Spanish mackerel in the inlet.

WEST SAYVILLE

At the **South Bay Fishing Station**, Vinnie reported good weakfishing a mile and a half off of the Station and he added that quite a few nice kingfish are also mixed with the weaks. Squid strips have been accounting for all of the action for the weaks and kings. A few sea bass and fluke still being taken and there are plenty of snappers and crabs around as well. Overall, Vinnie described the fishing as a good mixed bag, with boats returning with anywhere from 10-30 fish apiece.

OAKDALE

John at **J&R Sports Center** reported good weakfishing in the bay for fish to 4 lbs. from mid-bay to Point O'Woods and behind the clam dredges. Somce Some nice kingfish are mixed with the weaks. Both are being taken on squid strips fished on the bottom. Big weakfish being livelined from the lighthouse to the wreck buoy with the best action on incoming water.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? We all know how delicious a fresh flounder dinner is, but when we found Theresa Reina on the dock at Young's Fishing Station gobbling down her catch, we were puzzled. When asked about her odd eating habits, she replied "I like to eat them raw."

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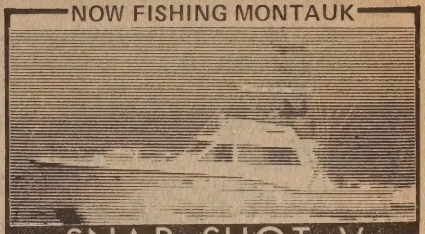
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Plenty of action out at the edge of the canyon with yellowfin and big-eye tuna and long fin albacore. John asked us to remind customers that he is now carrying live eels and will continue to do so throughout the fall.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait & Tackle tells us that Martin Rosenthal of East Islip had a load of fluke from 1½ to 3 lbs. and 4 bluefish from 2½ to 3 lbs. on combo bait in the inlet around buoy 6. Fluking from the Lighthouse to the inlet on sand eel/squid combos have been taking bluefish. Aside from the fluke, in the 2 to 3 lbs. range directly in front of the Lighthouse. The blues

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have been hitting best on umbrellas and jigs. Porgies, sea bass, fluke and weaks at buoy 13 off Ocean Beach on squid and sand eels. Three to 4 lb. weakfish are being caught behind the clam dredges on squid and sand worms. Larger weaks are being taken on live snappers. Carl weighed in an 11 lb. weakfish. Large sea bass have been caught on the Kismit Reef. Blues and bonito are being jigged outside on the Patchogue Grounds and the bluefishing remains strong. The blues seem to be moving west in 200' of water and 6 to 12 pounders are being jigged and umbrellaed.

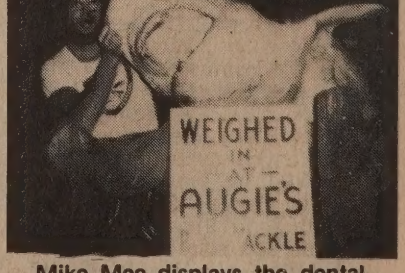
CAPTREE

Captain Joe of the **Jib VII** reported the night bluefishing off of Patchogue has been very good. Saturday night's action was described as excellent with lots of choppers from 5-15 lbs. coming aboard. Beginning this week, the boat will be making the bluefish run on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights only. Departure time 7PM.

Captain Marty of the **Jib VI** said fluking was excellent the latter part of the week in the vicinity of the inlet. The fish are now concentrating in preparation for their offshore migration. The Captain figured there are still a couple of good weeks of fluking ahead.

The open boat **Captain Rod** told us of very good fluke fishing the latter part of last week. Of the weekend fishing, Saturday was better than Sunday. Fishing was being from the bridge to the mouth of the inlet with killie and squid combos. The best tide has been last of the incoming and the first of the ebb. Captain Rod expects the fluke will be with us another couple of weeks, although he will be taking advantage of a good run of weakfish and kingfish back in the bay beginning this week. Henceforth, he'll be dividing his days between all three species.

The **Captain Speedy VI** said that overall the bluefishing has been pretty decent, with night fishing excellent and days a little erratic. Speedy call the weekend day action fair and attributed the reduced action



Mike Moe displays the dental work of his 745 lb. tiger shark. The huge shark was landed on the All Star in 180' of water S.E. of Fire Island Inlet. It was weighed at Augie's Bait and Tackle.

to a tremendous amount of boat traffic. There was a 13 lb. tuna taken during the week and some albacore and bonito are mixed with the blues each day.

The **Speedy VII** has been enjoying some of the best fluke action all year around the mouth of the inlet. The last of the flood, the first of the ebb has been producing plenty of nice fish.

The **Captree Bait Station** reported very good blues down off Patchogue with albacore, tuna and bonito mixed in with the choppers. The fluking is now good in the inlet area and with the fish now concentrating there it looks like a couple of good weeks of fishing remain. Plenty of snappers being taken by pier fishermen on bait and small shiny lures.

The open boat **Capt Gillen** informs us that the fluking has been very good right through the weekend from the bridge to the mouth of the inlet with action best when the tide slows. "Some of the best fishing of the year" said the skipper.

Capt Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** reports that the fluking continues good most of the week west of the Moses Bridge, catches averaging 4 to 8 keepers a man on killies, best on the flood tide or at the changes. Night bluefishing remains excellent at the Patchogue grounds, to the tune 250 to 500 blue devils a trip. Fish are ranging 4 to 8 lbs. with some going up to 15 lbs. Starting Thursday Sept. 11th, the boat will start fishing bluefish 7 a.m. daily along with their regular 7 p.m. evening bluefish trip. See ad for details.

Capt Joe of the **Jib VII** says that the night bluefishing has been very good fishing off Patchogue. Eddie Bray and sons Mike and Eddie of Fresno CA along with Kevin Dolley of Huntington had 460 lbs. of fillet on Thursday.

Capt Marty of the **Jib Fleet** asked us to let you know that Capt Bert Blum will be starting his bay wreck blackfish trips on Saturday Sept. 13th.

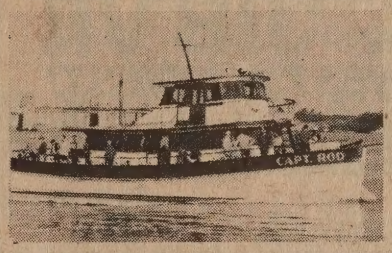
BABYLON

Bill at the **Babylon Fishing Station** said that boatmen drifting live snappers near the lighthouse have been scoring well with big weakfish. Some nice fluke are being taken in the same area, also on snappers. Bill looked over a nice catch of big porgies made in the vicinity of the WR buoy on the weekend. The biggest was a humpback of 3½ lbs. Good bluefishing off of Patchogue continues and there's plenty of action at the Canyon for yellowfin, big-eyes and albacore.

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** reported good bluefishing off of Patchogue and also south of Ocean Beach. Albacore and bonito are mixed with the blues which are being taken on diamond jigs. Live snappers are taking big weakfish and fluke near the lighthouse. As for the offshore fishing, action has been hot anywhere from the weather station to the edge

★CAPTREE★

CAPT. ROD



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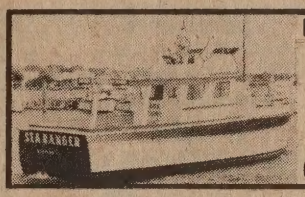

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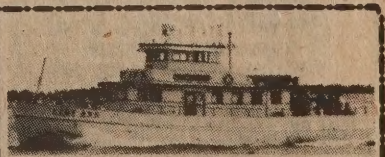
Rich Hillzinger displays the pool winning bluefish he decked aboard the open boat "Capt. Scotty" out of Captree.



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of the canyon. The Babylon Tuna Club boat Blue Water skippered by Bob Jessen took 10 bigeye tuna and a pair of yellowfins on a recent trip. On Friday, the boat scored with a white marlin. Aboard the Christina II, Fred Biangardi put away a 304 lb. bigeye tuna.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait & Tackle tells us that the snappers have left the bay and are heavy now from the Bridge to Fire Island Inlet. Two to 4 lb. blackfish are starting at the Artificial Reef. Good catches of fluke from the Fire Island Bridge to the Inlet on sand eels and squid. Bluefish being jigged and baited anywhere from the Inlet out to the Patchogue grounds. Tuna in 180' on out on Green Machines, Kona heads. Mako and other shark are slowing down. Lots of crabs in the back bays. Flounder starting at the Sore Thumb on worms and small sea bass around the bridges and rocks.

SEAFORD

Capt Eddie's Fishing Station called to say that Don Geraci of Mineola caught 16 fluke up to 3½ lbs. plus a few sea bass and snappers on Saturday. Jim Livingston, also of Mineola, caught a 4¾ lb. triggerfish. Crabs are showing at the dock again.

Wanser's Tackle Shop reported decent fluke action from the 3rd bridge west to the inlet. Ann and Steve Weiss had 12 nice keepers using killie and squid combos just west of the 3rd bridge on Saturday. Weakfish being taken under the bridges on sand worms and live snappers and some good porgy and flounder scores being made in the deep water areas. Snappers all over and big and even the crabbing perked up a bit this past week.

BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** knows of bluefish being chummed and baited at Cholera with some tuna being taken at the HA and at the Mud Hole. Lots of tiny blowfish, small sea bass, flounder and porgies being caught in the holes and around the bridges all over the bay. Fluking has been found wanting this past week.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station tells us that Fran Tarrantino had a 5 lb.

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★ BOOK NOW ★

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SIGHTSEEING CRUISES•DINNER BOAT
COME ON DOWN!
You'll have a great day!

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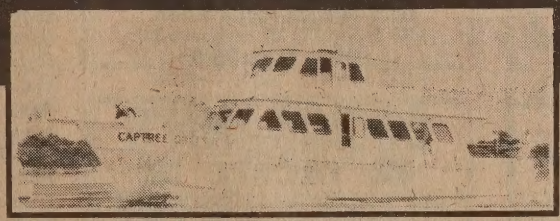
CAPTREE QUEEN II

BLUES
7AM & 7PM

SPECIAL—
NO OVERCROWDING!
STRICT 1 SIDE LIMIT
MAX. 44 PASSENGERS



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7AM & 7PM

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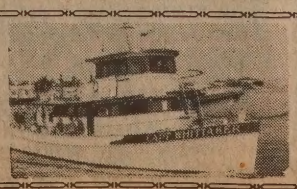

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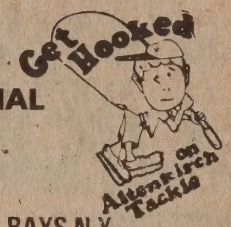

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fluke taken in Reynold's Channel Sunday on killies and squid. Crabbing remains good in Middle and Baldwin Bays. Flounders are starting in Scow Creek. Small blues off the Pink Hotel in the 3 to 4 lbs. range in 40' of water and also some weaks mixed in. This is on trolled umbrellas and also take note that a hot combination has been black and green tubes. Albacore, Jack Cravalle and a couple of dolphin, have also been caught at the BA on the troll.

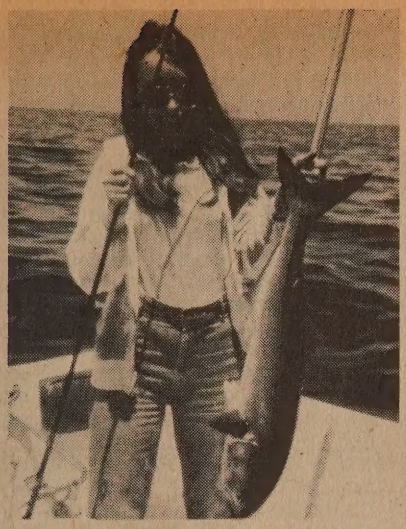
WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

FREEPORT

The **Capt Gary** ran open boat Saturday and fares totaled a catch of 28 keeper fluke at Jone's Inlet. Sunday's charter for Parade Dress Co. of NYC worked Cholera and enjoyed a good catch of blues. An 8 lb. blue grabbed the pool for Tony Cusunao. High hook for the day was Jeff Blitz. The boat has choice days open in September and October for fluke and flounder charters.

Capt Mike Miller of the charterboat **Apus** tells of excellent fishing this week. On Wednesday Ray Kahoud and 3 friends filled the boat with blues fishing SW of Cholera. Thursday's charter bagged 100 lb. mako and some brown shark. Friday's charter had a 200 lb. tiger shark, the 4th tiger over 200 lbs. this season aboard the **Apus**. Sunday's charter had some brown shark activity and a 40 lb. mako. This was the "Lucky 13th" mako this year. One and a half weeks ago Johnny and Ronnie Wellman did a good job on shark and fought a tiger

Young Chuck Adams of Rockville Centre decked this 16 lb. chopper during a recent trip aboard the Freeport charter boat "Blue Fin III."



Kay Twaddle displays her first bluefish, a 12 lber. taken S.E. of Jones Inlet while chumming for sharks aboard the Fish Hawk.

estimated at 1500 lbs. for a total of 9 hrs. 17 min. The monster came to the boat twice but couldn't be stopped. It broke off after full drap pressure was finally put on.

Capt Bill of the charterboat **Ivory Queen** called to say that Saturday's trip for Eliott Finkelstein and party saw a 40 lb. yellowfin tuna taken by Glen Maynard, a 32 lb. yellowfin tuna by Sal Torisi and a 5 lb. dolphin for Iggy Acquisto. They also had 14 skippies. The catch was on Green Machines and feathers in the red/white and green/yellow variety. This was SE of Jone's. All of the above mentioned fish were loaded with butterfish.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** tells us that on Labor Day aboard the **BF III**, they fished Cholera with bait and chum anchoring on the rocks and had great bluefishing. This was the first day of the season that they bait fished daytime. Dick and Marilyn Mendelson along with Sam and Al Stern, caught in the 20s each. Fish went up to 12 lbs. and there were just under 300 blues for the trip. There were no other boats around to spook the blues. Too many of the private boats have been ruining the catches lately with their poor fishing manners. Night trips aboard the **BF II and III** being run by Capts. Ed Geyer and Charlie Adams have been having super bluefishing to the SE on bait. Pools also are 12 plus lbs. and fish are averaging 3 to 15 lbs. The cod wreck trip will be sailing at 4 a.m. on Sept. 17th. See ad for details if interested.

Capt Joe, "Tuna" Long did it again aboard his charterboat **Nite Owl** for John Cromwell of Freeport and party, from Oneonta NY. They worked 50 miles offshore and had skipjack and a 100 lb. bluefin tuna all on jet-heads Saturday.

The **Capt Al** had a high hook of 50 bluefish on Thursday fishing the Cholera. All week long customers have been picking away at blues with

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a scattering of bonito and albies. The boat is being mugged very badly on the weekend by private boats cutting the chum slick and dragging wire, picking up lines, etc. Some courtesy please, gentlemen.

Capt Richie Kessinger's **Starstream II** reports that the bluefishing has been constant all week long on both day and night trips, including the weekend. Twelve to 15 bluefish a man is no big problem. Small boats says the skipper have been interfering with the fishing to a tremendous extent on the weekends. He advises that you come on down on the weekdays when few private boats are out. The night trips have been consistent also with fish from 4 to 14 lbs. with an occasional bonito, albacore and skipjack. Your reporter sailed the night trip on the boat on Tuesday night and with Capt Chris Specht doing the honors, the boat fished Cholera and also the Three Sisters and all aboard including first timers, all had a solid catch of blues. This was on both split-shot rigs and on sinker rigs fished hard on the bottom. Richie says strong bluefishing should continue into November.

The **Freeport Boatmen's Association** reports that the Association's boats fished Cholera on Saturday and had a steady pick on bluefish all day long. All the boats anchored up and chummed and drifted bait and took choppers in the 6 to 8 lb. range. Capt Jimmy Lanzaretta's charterboat **Nite Owl II** enjoyed an excellent cod wreck fishing trip Saturday. They had lots of 35 pounders. The pool cod ran 40 lbs. and mixed in were a good number of 20 to 30 lb. pollack.

The **Capt Lou III** tells of very good action all week long with mixed bag fishing on flounder, porgies, sea bass, blowfish and fluke. Charlie Giarratano and Dianie Brown of Holbrook, on Thursday had 28 keeper flounder, 40 porgies and sea bass, 2 blows and 2 fluke. Frank Schneider hauled up 28 flounder and 30 porgies. Sunday saw John DeRosa take 26 keeper flounders. The half-day boat **Capt Lou IV** has been having very good catches also. They are fishing local spots. Mike says the waters are still warm but it appears there will be a repeat of last fall's excellent mixed bag fishing.

The **Capt Bill** called to say that he is now switching over to flounder and will be running his 2 trips daily for these tasty flatfish.

Capt Marty of the charterboat **Sandpearl** fished Monster Ledge on Thursday and was rewarded with a 218 lb. brown shark. On the rod was John Giglio of Brooklyn. They also tagged and released 2 60 to 80 lb. duskies. Mosnter Ledge is 41 miles off the beach and has a 280' drop-off. Saturday's trip with Capt Al running the boat, saw Jim Plazzaio and friends take 2 footballs and 1 dolphin fishing 38 miles off the beach around the NOAH buoy. The water is reportedly alive with life and they saw white marlin breaking. The boat will be doing some cod wreck charters. See

ad for details.

Lou of **Lou's Fishing Station** said that fluking improved in the vicinity of the inlet in recent days. The deeper holes are producing some decent flounder scores and there are still plenty of snappers around the area. Gillnetters and trollers accounted for a few southern visitors this past week. Among them were 2 southern kingfish, a cero mackerel, a Spanish mackerel and a pair of wahoos. John and Joe Jakubowski aboard their Rainy Days returned with a nice catch of 14 big blues from Ambrose and a load of nice sea bass. The Atlantis Anglers Club boat Beachcomber fished an offshore wreck on Saturday and returned with 25 cod up to 51 lbs.

POINT LOOKOUT

Capt Dennis of the charterboat **Marie III** tells us that Saturday, S.M.S. Instruments, Inc. of Deer Park fished the Shrewsbury rocks and had a slow pick of blues up to 7 lbs., a skippie and 12 sea bass to 2 lbs. on bait and chum. Saturday night's charter for the Hicksville Fire Co. #7 fished Cholera with bait and chum and had a slaughter. Bill Kelly, Sr. took the pool with a 15 pounder. High hook was Lester Snediker with 18 blues. Fish averaged 3 to 7 lbs. with a few 10 to 15 pounders mixed in. They left for the dock early at 1 a.m. Sunday's charter for the Charles Shiclacos group fished Cholera with a fast two hours fishing to start off with which turned into a pick. Fish ran 3 to 7 lbs. on bait. Eight fish were the reward for first timer Joe Concannon.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie Beckman told of improved fluking in both Jones and Debs Inlets and also down at Ambrose. Most of the bigger fish are being taken on smelt and squid combos. Charlie weighed in a 14 lb. doormat last week for an angler who didn't leave his name, but told Charlie that he took it in Jones Inlet using two big smelt for bait. Plenty of snappers and crabs spread around the area.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports that fluke seem to be the best item available. Ed Conti of Brooklyn and 7 yr. old son Anthony, had a 6½ lb. fluke on a killie/squid combo fishing Reynold's Channel off the Cedarhurst Yacht Club Saturday. Arnie and Pete Rubin of Long Beach had 15 keepers and a number of snappers. They fished Duck Point with killies. Jon Stein of Oceanside and Nick Savene of Flushing, chummed Cholera Saturday and had 44 blues up to 12 lbs. In the Marina's contest, Tom Balthazar leads the bluefish contest with a 10 pounder. Phil Robinson leads the flounder contest with a 1 pounder. The contests run through October 12th and the entry fee is $2 for blues and $1 for flounders.

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ATLANTIC BEACH

Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** reported flatfish action starting up near the Atlantic Beach bridge and good fluke action near the Tin Can Grounds. Plenty of snappers locally with the fish all real nice size. Captain Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** clicked with a giant tuna of 809 lbs. at the Mud Hole on Friday. The huge tuna was taken by Bob Sparta of S&G Tackle and because the gin pole was off the boat for repairs at the time, it had to be towed back to port. En route, at least 50 lbs. of meat was lost during the towing. A 19 lb. wahoo was weighed in last week by the crew aboard the Sea Jet.

Capt Ronnie Lepper of the charter-boat **Kim** excitedly called to say that he caught the biggest tuna this side of Montauk on Friday and the first giant tuna to be taken out of the Mud Hole this year. The boat's gin pole was off the boat being repaired which is a piece of backround for this story. With angler Bob Sparta of S&G Tackle on the rod fishing a dead ling, with a 12/0 reel and 130 lb. class tackle, they hooked and landed what ended up to be an 11½ foot giant tuna. With the gin pole being off the boat, the fish had to be towed in 30 miles to Reynold's Reef Fishing Station, under the Atlantic Beach Bridge. The tuna lost all it's blood, a gillplate and 50 lbs. of meat approximately due to accident or shark attack. It weighed 810 lbs. on the scale and it was an estimated 900 lbs. if all of the missing parts were intact. The fish was 660 lbs. gutted and with the head off. Ron says the biggest previous tuna brough in from the Mud Hole was a 527 pounder which was also caught aboard the **Kim** 10 years ago. Aside from this trip, the boat's charters have been taking solid catches of blues, some bonito and a few weaks in the NY Bight.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** reported some pretty good fluking under the Marine Parkway Bridge. O.C. Young took an 8.7 lb. doormat on a squid and killie combo under the bridge. Another angler had a 6 lber. from the same area. Still plenty of small porgies at the north and south channel bridges and snappers around in good numbers. Blues in the 1 lb. class being taken around the bridges also. Crabbing has been slow.

Canarsie Sports and Tackle reports good numbers of large snappers being caught now off the Canarsie Pie along with a few fluke. Very few porgies are being taken. Private boats fishing the area of the Marine Parkway Bridge are getting good catches of fluke on squid and spearing combos and bagging a few weakfish on sand worms.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Tom on the **Pilot II**

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	9:50	9:55	10:35	10:50	10:30	10:45	11:20	11:35	1:25	1:25	12:55	1:10	9:40	10:00	9/11
FRI.	10:25	10:30	11:10	11:30	11:10	11:20	—	12:00	1:35	1:40	1:30	1:50	10:20	10:35	9/12
SAT.	11:00	11:10	11:45	—	11:45	11:50	12:20	12:35	2:00	2:10	2:05	2:25	11:00	11:15	9/13
SUN.	11:40	11:45	12:05	12:25	—	12:15	12:55	1:20	2:30	2:45	2:45	3:05	11:45	—	9/14
MON.	—	12:20	12:40	1:10	12:25	12:50	1:40	2:00	3:10	3:30	3:25	3:45	12:00	12:30	9/15
TUE.	12:30	1:05	1:30	2:00	1:05	1:35	2:35	2:50	3:55	4:15	4:15	4:35	12:50	1:20	9/16
WED.	1:20	2:00	2:20	2:55	1:50	2:20	3:30	3:45	4:45	5:05	5:10	5:30	1:45	2:15	9/17
THUR.	2:20	3:00	3:25	3:55	2:50	3:20	4:30	4:45	5:45	6:05	6:05	6:25	2:45	3:15	9/18

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3.35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

9/12	6:37	7:15
9/13	6:38	7:13
9/14	6:39	7:11
9/15	6:40	7:10
9/16	6:41	7:08
9/17	6:42	7:06
9/18	6:43	7:04

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/9	9/17	9/24	9/1

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	6:30	**12:40**	6:55	**1:05**
Fri.	7:20	**1:30**	7:40	**1:50**
Sat.	8:05	**2:15**	8:25	**2:40**
Sun.	8:55	**3:05**	9:15	**3:25**
Mon.	9:40	**3:50**	10:00	**4:15**
Tues.	10:30	**4:40**	10:50	**5:05**
Wed.	11:20	**5:35**	11:45	**6:00**
Thurs.	—	**6:20**	12:15	**6:50**

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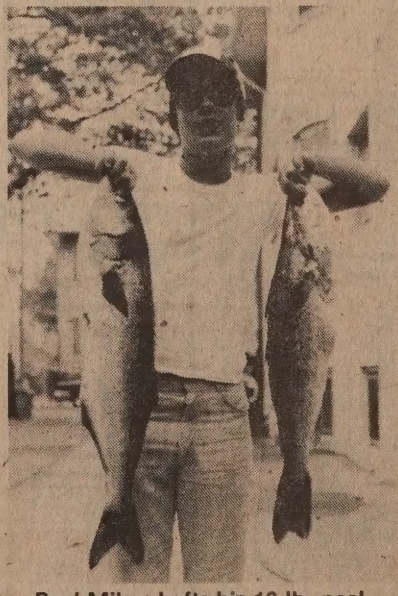
reported that he has found some consistent fishing off the Jersey coast. Last Thursday the boat had blackfish from 3 to 9 lbs. taken on fiddlers and green crabs. High hook filled two 5-gallon buckets and a pool fish of 9 lbs. 8 oz. was boated. Friday and Saturday were good fishing days, but on Sunday fares really enjoyed some porgy action. Five gallon pails were filled all over the boat with porgies in the 1/2 to 1½ lb. range. This fishing was done off the Jersey coast on clams.

The **Dorothy B** has been fluke fishing and the captain said that fishing has improved over the last week. On Thursday a 7 lb. 1 oz. pool fish was boated along with many fish in the 3-7 lb. range. Sandy Hook and the channels off Jersey have been producing big fish on large spearing. On Friday, the fish were smaller, but still in good quantity. Most fish ranged from 1½ to 3 lbs. and were taken on spearing. The weekend fishing was slower than the weekdays because of the boat traffic in the area. Saturday and Sunday were both slow picks with some good shots at fluke in the 1½ to 3 lb. range throughout the day.

The **Zephyr** found good fluke fishing in local channels such as Ambrose and New Channel. On Friday, catches of 25 to 30 fish per person were taken on large spearing, squid and sand eels. Eight fish over 8 lbs. were taken. On Saturday fishing slowed with catches running 15 to 20 fish per man, fish weighing from 1½ to 2 lbs. and up. Sunday's fishing slowed with fares picking away at the fluke, catches running 5 to 15 fish per person.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** reported plenty of sand porgies and snapper blues at the South Beach and Berger Avenue storm sewers, as well as in Princess Bay and along Gateway National Park. Fluke being taken at the latter two locations. Very good bluefish and weakfish action, with most of the fish in the 8-10 lb. class at buoys 10, 12 and 14 on cut bunker. Eight to 10 lb. weakfish being taken on drifted worms inside of Great Kills Harbor. School bass also on worms around Hoffman and Swinburne Islands. Blackfish just getting started with the best early season bet being old Orchard Light.



Paul Mikus hefts his 16 lb. pool winning chopper and a 10 lb. weak. Both were taken on the Sheepshead Bay open boat "Flamingo III."

PECONICS & GARDINERS

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES

GREENPORT

Capt George Porter of the **Brand X** says the porgy fishing is still good and that the boat is getting over 1000 good porgies each day. He's been loading up all week with fish running up to 3½ lbs. Most fish are large with scatterings of jumbos mixed in.

Capt. Dave Brennan of the **Peconic Star** tells of super porgy action Saturday working east of Gardiner's. Dave says the fish were mainly jumbos and that he ran into the mother load. Sunday's fishing was good though not as hot as Saturday's on medium fish. Dave says there are still loads of porgies being caught and many fares are filling 5 gallon buckets with good fishermen working on second buckets also. Sunday's catches averaged ¾ pail per man. Thursday's solid action at Plum Island was done in just two drops for the whole day.

A.P White Bait & Tackle called to say that bluefishing has been fair at Pigeon Rip on diamond jigs and umbrellas for 5 to 8 lb. fish. Surfcasters tossing bunker chunks off the Greenport beaches have been scoring well on blues that have been herding bunker in towards the beaches. Capt Roddie DeLisle of the charterboat **Prowler II** has been continuing to pick a way at fluke off the Ruins in good numbers. Blackfish are on the increase at Plum Island and Plum Gut and Gull Island. These fish are up to 7 lbs. and are hitting green crab and fiddler crab. Artie says that snappers are belly-button deep all over.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** says that in Peconic Bay there are lots of porgies though not the jumbos, at buoys 14, 16, 17 and 18, at South Ferry, Mashamok Point and Cedar

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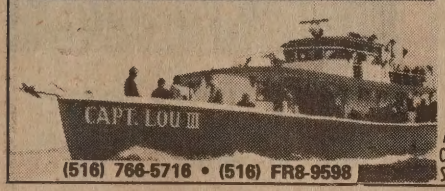
CAPT. LOU III



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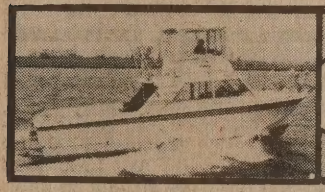

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Point. The biggest of these are taken on the drift at South Ferry, fish up to 2 lbs. Weaks are spotty but mixed in. On the bay side of Orient at the New London ferry slip near the traps, large flounder are being caught, though not in super quantities. In good quantities, yes. Out at the Orient Station, there are still fluke being caught off Truman's Beach and Orient Shoals in the 3 to 4 lb. class. Small snappers, sand eels, and squid are the ticket and Ace advises that you incorporate something live on the hook. Fluke are also at Petty's Bight. Porgies are red hot at Petty's Bight, mostly mediums. Rental boats are filling anywhere from 3 to 5 five gallon pails each, depending on the number of anglers per boat. Four to 6 lb. blackfish are being caught at the Lighthouse on green crabs. Flounders are improving daily at the traps east of the station. Five to 6 lb. blues are being trolled in the Gut on umbrellas and are hitting diamond jigs in the Race.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal at **Capt Marty's Fishing Station** tells us that there are still plenty of porgies at South Race at buoys 23, 25, 29 and 30. Weakfish and porgies have been caught this week and weekend between the radio tower and the Whitehouse. Also producing have been buoy 1 on the west side of Nassau Point and buoy 4 which is west of Robin's Island. Weaks are up to 4 lbs. and porgies up to 1½ lbs. They are hitting on both tides and heavy chumming pays off.

Newt at **Capt Jim's Fishing Station** says that good fishing has been had by his rental customers all week long including the weekend especially on the west side of Robin's Island beyond buoy 4 and also between Rose Grove and Nassau Point's buoy 27. The catch is mostly porgies from ½ to 1 lb. and weakfish from 1½ to 3½ lbs. A 3 lb. sea porgy was caught on Sunday. Catches remain solid and a 5 gallon bucket full of fish is no big trick. Newt says that he has never seen catches so consistent. Both tides are producing. Sand worms are working best for both porgies and weakfish, which is normal in the fall. More blowfish have been brought in during the last week than in the last 5 years, says Newt. There are not a lot of them but they are definitely in evidence.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric** tells of super porgy and fluke fishing. On Monday Mr. & Mrs. Woods of Bayside had 157 porgies between them. On Thursday, 4 friends from Brooklyn, all regulars, scored well. Mr. Brown had 84 porgies, Mr. Hanover had 83, Mr. Carmichael 76, and Mr. Jones 57. On Friday Mr. Monroe of Mt. Veron was high hook with 93 porgies. People were filling buckets with fish on the weekend. These were mostly mediums with a few jumbos and a few small mixed in. On Tuesday's fluke trip Dr. Pine was high hook with 12 fluke. Wednesday's fluke trip saw fantastic fluking. Warren kuhle had 20 keeper fluke. Jack Gleason had 23 fluke. Gene, Bob and John Pfalzer of West Islip had 38 keepers. All these fluke ran 2 to 5 lbs. and the fishing was off Gardiner's. Dr. Pine and wife teamed up for 23 fluke Wednesday and Mrs. P. took the pool. The skipper said this was a spectaular day when everything worked right. Fish were spitting up sand eels. There were nearly 200 fluke taken off the boat on Wednesday and the pool fish ran 6 lbs.

Andy and John Rice of Riverdale, N.J. display a couple of pool winning fluke caught aboard the Sag Harbor open boat, "Wilhelric."

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports that Ken Chavis and Pat Weathers of Jersey City fished off Long Beach Saturday. They kept 100 porgies taken on squid and bloods. They had one good blowfish. Sunday Dick Elliott of Farmingdale bagged 2 weaks and a fluke fishing off Long Beach using squid strips. Plenty of snappers around and rental boats are bringing back good catches. On rental skiff returned with 300 porgies.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

ROCKY POINT

Stan at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reported northerly winds hindered boatmen part of the weekend. In general, though, there has been good porgy fishing with fish of mixed sizes

being taken inshore of the shoal area and off of Wading River. Blackfish just getting started in the area and fluking continues so-so, with the best bets being off of the "pink house" and at Buoy 9. Blues on jigs and umbrella rigs between buoys 9 and 11 in 60' to 80' of water.

Capt Jim of the **Hi Hook** called to say that the bluefish and weakfish catches remain good, especially on his evening trip. This is mainly on diamond jigs. Occasional good size fluke up to 4 lbs. are also being taken at bonus fish. Blues are being caught to the tune of 5 to 8 a man at the Obstruction buoy and buoy 13.

Friday night the Northport Veterans Hospital group got blues and weaks. Larry Lee of Northport got 6 blues, Gene Hagen of New Hyde Park got 5. Sunday evening Randy Weltman of Dix Hills took the pool. All runs are catching fish. See ad for details.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Fisherman's Haven reports plenty of 2 to 6 lb. blues being trolled and jigged in 15 to 20' of water from Port Jeff east to buoy 9. Plenty of snappers all along the beaches. Some blacks being taken inside the Gong at Old Field Point on worm and clam. Flounder are starting at Mt. Sinai Inlet.

Ralph's Fishing Station tells of a strong week of fishing with a lot of porgies being caught in any of the rocky areas, particularly at the rock pile just outside Mt. Sinai Harbor. Bluefish have been good at buoys 11 and 49 on the troll and on jigs, fish in the 5 to 6 lb. class. Fluking has been fair on the flats outside the station on sand eels and killies. Loads of snappers and tinker mackerel in the harbor on small spearing and small tins.

SELDEN

Bill at **Angler's Den** says that in the Sound outside Port Jeff lots of 2 to 3 lb. blues are being taken and out at Middle Grounds on the SW side choppers up to 18 lbs. are being trolled and jigged. Along Cedar Beach fluke to 3½ lbs. are being taken on sand eels. Action is best on the ebb and sundial bellies have become a hot bait. Buoy 9 has been seeing bluefish aciton in the 2 to 3 lb. class. Porgies have been very good with catches of 40 to 60 fish a man off Old Field Point at buoy 11A on clam and worm. Some blackfish at Rocky Point. A 77 lb. yellowfin tuna was caught aboard the Frankie G by Brian Burnett fishing outside Moriches in 130' of water on trolled squid. Small weaks are being taken on drifted worms. Larger weaks are being taken off Northport Harbor on drifted worms and also on jigs. A lot of big

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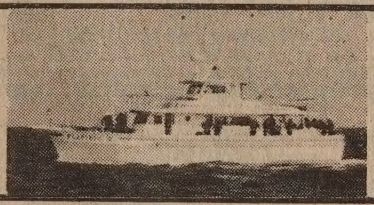

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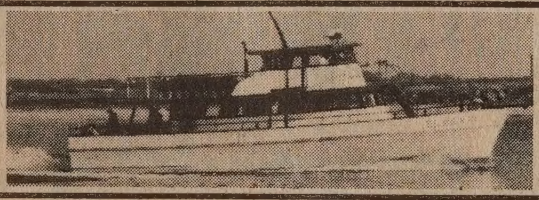

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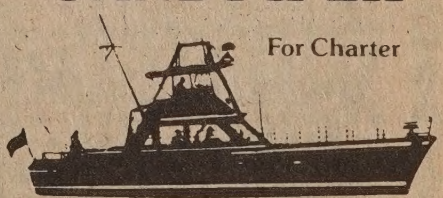

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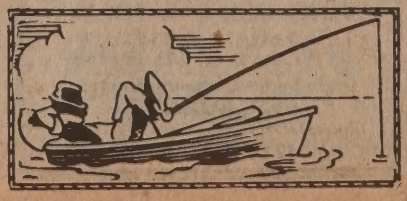

blues at Middle Grounds and at the Obstruction buoy at Lilco and also at Cold Spring Harbor.

HUNTINGTON

The **Ever Ready** reports that Friday morning's trip for 5 people saw a 148 mixed blues and weakfish taken. Blues in the 10 lb. class and went up to 13 lbs. 6 oz. Three weakfish over 11 lbs. were bagged. There were 8 bluefish double-headers. A total estimate 500 lbs. of fish were taken for the trip. The largest weak of 11 lbs. 12 oz. was weighed in at **Four Winds Bait & Tackle**. On Tuesday morning's trip Ed Kutner had a 10 lb. 2 oz. blue which took the pool. On Saturday Joe Cincotta of East Northport on the morning trip, copped the pool with a 9 lb. 8 oz. blue. Delores Schmidt boated 14 blues up to 9 lbs. plus a 5 lb. weak.

George at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** reported real fine bluefish action at the obstruction buoy. Most of these fish are in the 2-5 lb. class and are being taken on jigs or umbrella rigs. Bigger fish, up to 12 lbs., at buoy 24C which is northwest of 13. George raved about the new Tri-Fin Tiger striped jig, which anglers have been clamoring for. The jig has been outfishing all other jigs by a wide margin. Some school bass up to 10 lbs. continue to be trolled on wire line and bucktails inside of buoy 13. Some big blues are mixed with the bass. Bob Streigl used a snapper to take a 6.10 lb. fluke at Eatons Neck on Saturday. Big porgies still at buoy 13 and off of Marshall Field. George weighed in a weak of 11¾ lbs. for Phil Guglielmo over the weekend.

NORTHPORT

Tom reported from **Bowman's Sporting Goods** that a few big fluke

Howard Bertenthal of West Hempstead landed this 8 lb. fluke in Long Island Sound. It was weighed at O.K. Bait and Tackle.

are being taken at Eaton's Neck. Two to five pound class choppers at the obstruction buoy on jigs, with bigger fish at 11B on wire line and umbrellas. Small porgies being taken from the beach at Sand City and blackfish just getting started in this area. Small weakfish continue to please boatmen behind Duck Island in the evenings and big snappers are now all over.

GLEN COVE

Dave at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported a few big blues in the 10-15 lb. class still around the barges and the power plant at the high water turn. Fish have been spread from Matinecock Point down into Hempstead Harbor but they are not around in the numbers of last week. Loads of snappers being taken all over the area. The fish are big and anglers have been parading in and out of the shop with bucketfuls all week long.

NORTH SHORE
WEST END
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

CITY ISLAND

Capt Joe of the **Ebb Tide II** left the brief message that the fishing has been good this past week and weekend for porgies and flounder. He asked that for details, you give him a call. See ad for number.

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** reported plenty of action with sand porgies and snappers around the bridges. Some big blues being taken by boatmen at Execution and Stepping Stone Lights on bait and jigs.

SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Some good news for surfmen who have been plagued by the L. I. State Park Commission's sudden moratorium on night fishing and 4-wheel drive permits. Effective Monday, September 8, both permits will be av available to bonafide anglers.

Several weeks ago, an unexpected demand combined with several "Beach problems" resulted in a curtailment of the permits. The issue will be explained in detail in an

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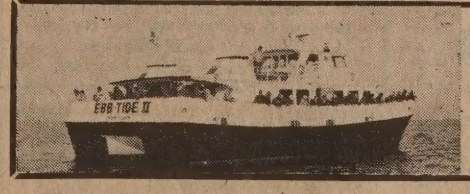

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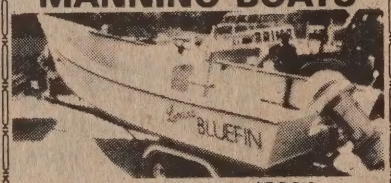

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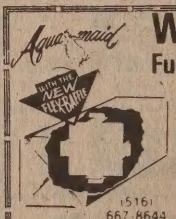

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A nice batch of porgies up to 2 lbs. taken on sand worms near buoy 9 by Marco and John Respinto and a friend. Photo courtesy of Rocky Point Fishing Stop.

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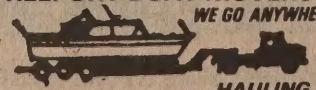

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456 Middle Country Road, SELDEN

upcoming editorial.

On the fishing front, there were some stirrings of bass at Montauk this past week along with some small weakfish and bluefish action.

Big blues were raiding the bunker schools near the City Island Bridge Monday morning, but east of here. The rest of the North Shore surf scene remained as dismal as ever.

South Shore

Blues in the 10 lb. class were being taken on bunker chunks near the jetty at Gateway National Park, according to Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** in Staten Island. Best fishing has been in the early AM and during the evening hours. Smaller choppers from 2-4 lbs., being taken by casters along the Princess Bay shore line on small tins and bait and a slow pick on school stripers at Penny Beach and Cliff Street. This action has all been on worms.

From his strategically located **Cross Bay Tackle Shop**, John said that the bridges have been quiet with just an occasional bass, blue or weak being picked at night or in the early morning. John did report that there are plenty of bunker in the area.

Charlie Beckmann told me from his **Island Park Shop** that while the surf has been very quiet, he has heard from several baymen that there is an abundance of mullet in the back bays and hopefully the first good northeaster will trigger some action as these baitfish move through the inlets and along the beaches.

Lon Wanser, who keeps pretty close tabs on the Jones Beach west end scene said that casters have been banging away at choppers up to 5-6 lbs. on a steady basis from both the front and back of the inlet jetty. Tins are taking most of the fish during mornings and evenings and action has been going on for the past several days. One of his regular surf customers reported things have been pretty quiet over at Fire Island recently.

Great South Bay Anglers Club member Stevie Jendricks who divides his time between Moriches and Fire Island, told me that there was a flurry of bluefish action at Democrat on Wednesday, while Friday was dead. Moriches has been relatively quiet this past week, with a lot of grass plaguing casters along this stretch of beach.

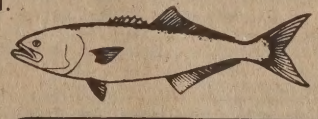
For those with Babylon town beach vehicle permits, some big weakfish have been falling to live snappers fished on the bottom at the Sore Thumb. Walkers can reach the Thumb via a 20 minute walk from the Cedar Beach parking lot. Out in Shinnecock, blues in the 2-3 lb. class roam in and out and it's more a question of being in the right place at the right time. The fish show most often in the early morning and again in the evening and are being taken on tins. This according to Thom at **Speck's Tackle Shop**.

Johnny Kronuch relayed word of some teen sized stripers taken in Dead Man's Cove on the south side of the Point and an occasional striper up front. The Chinaman, Jack Yee, scored again. This time with a 22 lb. striper which fell for a RedFin fished from weakfish rock. Some light action with small blues and weaks up front. John knew that some weaks in the 4-5 lb. class were taken Friday night at North Bar on small darters and the same night, one caster had 6 small blues over on Shagwong.

North Shore

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** was watching big blues harassing the bunker schools as I spoke to him Monday AM. At the same time, Steve DeLuca walked into the shop to weigh in a freshly caught 19½ lb. chopper. Steve took the fish on a whole bunker from the shore adjacent to the City Island Bridge. School bass continue to provide good action for casters using Rebels and bait in Turtle Cove.

From Glen Cove east, the word dead was repeated by everyone I spoke to. It wasn't until I got to Stan of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** that I received any semblance of a report. Less any north shore casters get excited, Stan's report dealt with the south shore. Enjoying the sun and surf with his family in mid-afternoon on Sunday, a school of "giant" blues moved slowly east along the beach about 100 yards out of casting range. Stan followed the fish from the third cut down to the inlet where they disappeared. Also, for casters looking for eels in the upcoming weeks, Stan is now well stocked and will continue to carry the snakes throughout the fall.



Panfishing In BROOKLYN

(Continued from page 15.)

between Sheepshead Bay and Canarsie Pier. Although these overpasses have a high elevation over the water which can be a hindrance to angling, they do provide decent snapper fishing. Last, but not least, Canarsie Pier, which offers great snapper fishing has the added convenience of a bait and tackle store nearby. Although crowded on weekends, it is a spacious and pleasant place to fish. There are plenty of other spots to fish off of in the area; to attempt to list them all would be futile. Scout around on your own and you may find a good spot that's relatively free of crowds.

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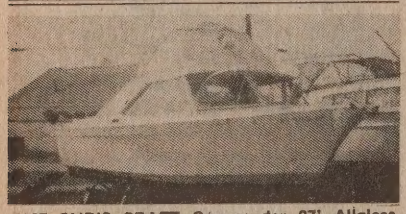

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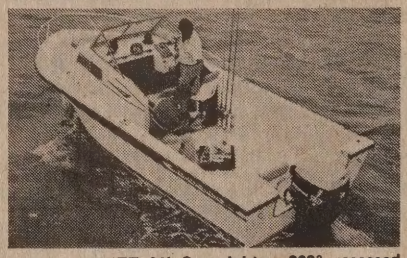

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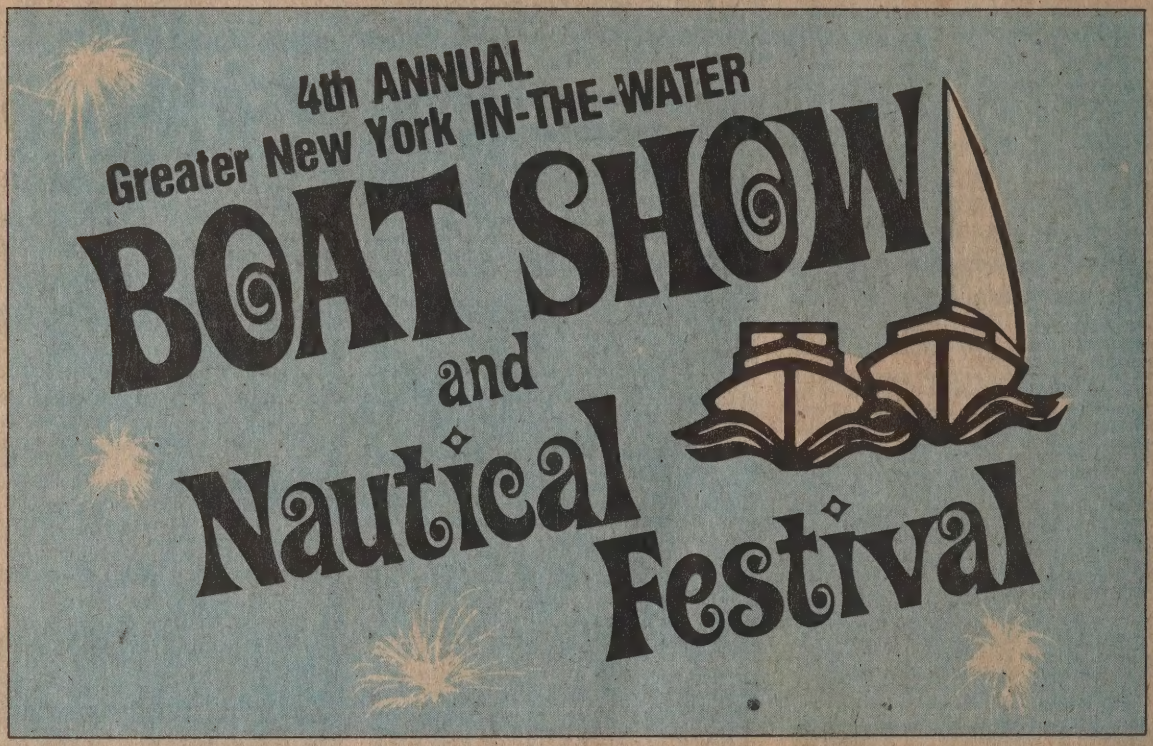

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